Report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia

1924/1925

(Washington, DC)

P. L. 841-10 M-1-12-23.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE YEAR
ENDED JUNE 30

District of Columbia.
Commissioners.
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1926

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1926

WASH.
REF.
352.0753 531357
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1925/1926

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 6, 1926.*

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia transmit herewith their report of the transactions of the government of the District of Columbia during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926, as required by law.

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CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The appropriations for the past fiscal year were, in general, more adequate than those for any previous year since the United States entered the World War. As a consequence, many public improvements have been in progress.

The five-year school-building program is well under way. The new water-supply system is nearing completion. Material progress has been made in the installation of new street lights in accordance with a plan approved for the whole District. Considerable improvement has been made in the condition of downtown streets, and several streets have been widened; but we still have over 700,000 square yards of street paving over 30 years old. The construction of permanent buildings at the District workhouse and reformatory is going ahead, and the building construction at the new District training school is progressing satisfactorily. Traffic conditions have been improved by the installation of traffic lights, and the public is becoming accustomed to the new regulations. Private building construction in the District exceeded all previous records, and as a consequence appropriations for many purposes, such as water and sewer main extensions, suburban roads, street cleaning, garbage, ash, and trash collection, playgrounds, and street trees have hardly sufficed to maintain the standards of service heretofore furnished.

Notable in the legislation beneficial to the District enacted at the first session of the Sixty-ninth Congress were the act creating the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the act creating the Board of Public Welfare. The bill creating a new Public Utilities Commission passed both Houses of Congress on the last day of the session but was not engrossed nor signed. This bill should be made a law as soon as possible when Congress convenes.

The attention of Congress is invited most earnestly to the advisability of enacting legislation that will place the fiscal relations between the United States and the District of Columbia on a permanent and equitable basis. Legislation should also be enacted that will bring about a merger of the street railway systems and that will modify or repeal the Borland law relative to assessing costs of roadway paving; that will authorize the elimination of grade crossings; that will permit the reconstruction of bridges now in poor condition or not suitable for modern traffic, and for other purposes in accordance with recommendations that have been or will be made by the commissioners. Attention is also invited to the necessity of eliminating the present price limitation governing the acquisition of land for school site, park, and playground purposes, or the efforts of those who are endeavoring to plan and develop our National Capital on well-considered plans will be hampered, if not nullified.

The morale of the employees of the District is good. Recent increases in pay have been very highly appreciated and the result is reflected in higher efficiency.

CHANGE IN PERSONNEL

Commissioner Frederick A. Fenning resigned that office and was succeeded on August 4, 1926, by Proctor Lambert Dougherty, who took the oath of office as commissioner on that date.

Maj. Raymond A. Wheeler, who had been on detail as one of the assistants to the engineer commissioner from September 1, 1922, until June 14, 1926, was succeeded on that duty on June 15, 1926, by Capt. Herbert C. Whitehurst.

Maj. William H. Holcombe, who had been on detail as one of the assistants to the engineer commissioner from June 15, 1923, to August 26, 1926, was succeeded by Maj. Layson E. Atkins, who entered on that duty on September 18, 1926.

FINANCES OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

APPROPRIATIONS

The cash receipts of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926, amounted to $31,564,805.48, made up as follows: Revenue of the District of Columbia from taxes and miscellaneous sources, $22,564,805.48; amount transferred to the revenues of the District of Columbia by the United States, $9,000,000.

The collections from taxes on real estate for the fiscal year 1926 amounted to $14,352,605.44; collections from taxes on personal property, including taxes on gross earnings and receipts of public utilities, banks, and building associations and on gross receipts of street railway companies, $3,389,602.88; and collections from taxes on intangible personal property, $2,057,343.34. Collections from miscellaneous sources amounted to $2,765,253.82.

The cash expenditures for the fiscal year 1926 from appropriations amounted to $29,869,450.16, classified as follows:

General government	$1,344,700.68
Protection of life and property	5,562,487.90
Health and sanitation	3,078,930.70
Highways	2,805,585.92
Charities and corrections	3,439,084.68
Education	10,153,548.04
Recreation	1,482,093.84
Miscellaneous	123,776.94
Public service enterprises	2,001,008.40
	29,991,217.10
Interest and debt—deduction on account of repayment in excess of expenditure	121,766.94
	29,869,450.16

TRUST AND SPECIAL FUNDS

The collections on account of trust and special funds for the fiscal year 1926 amounted to $5,016,659.14, water revenues representing $1,388,825.36 of this total; policemen and firemen's relief fund, $523,039.61; miscellaneous trust fund deposits, $1,222,496.41; fund for redemption of real estate from tax sales, $433,022.57; teachers' retirement fund $316,405.91; and the balance being collections for a number of miscellaneous trust and special funds.

The expenditures on account of trust and special funds during the fiscal year 1926 amounted to $5,057,902.01. Included in this amount were expenditures for the water department, $1,463,659.83; for the policemen and firemen's relief fund, $523,753.15; miscellaneous trust fund deposits, $1,187,290.17; Washington redemption fund, $434,493.53, and teachers' retirement fund, $337,726.26.

CASH BALANCES, JUNE 30, 1926

The cash balance to the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia in the Treasury of the United States on June 30, 1926, amounted to $10,164,873.07, but in this amount is included the sum of $4,017,608.53, representing the balance to the credit of the surplus revenue fund of the District of Columbia, which amount when deducted from the general fund balances leaves a net balance to the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia of $6,147,264.54; and to the credit of trust and special funds, $713,331.58.

ASSESSMENT OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

The act of Congress approved September 1, 1916, provided that real estate in the District of Columbia shall be assessed every two years. The assessment beginning July 1, 1926, i. e., for the fiscal year 1927, was based on field work and estimates made in the year 1924, to which was added the assessment against new buildings and additions in 1924–25 and 1925–26.

An act of Congress approved July 3, 1926 (Public No. 480) provides that "assessments of real estate in the District of Columbia for purposes of taxation shall be made annually."

AMOUNTS OF REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS

The assessed value of land was $402,848,046 and the assessed value of improvements was $497,901,796, or a total of $900,749,842 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926. Against this assessment a rate of $1.70 was levied, making the tax $15,312,747.

For the previous year, 1925, land and buildings were assessed for $819,625,572, which, at a rate of $1.40, gave a tax of $11,474,758.

The tax rate for the fiscal year 1927 has been fixed at $1.80 per hundred.

The value of new buildings and additions added for the fiscal year 1926–27 amounted to $52,655,900, located as follows: Northwest city, $14,159,700; northeast and southeast city, $2,581,000; southwest city, $896,400; Georgetown, $1,066,100; total city, $18,703,200. Northwest county, $26,001,100; northeast and southeast county, $7,951,600; total county, $33,952,700.

PERSONAL TAX ASSESSMENTS

The personal tax levy for the fiscal year 1926 had a grand total of $5,896,729.94, derived from three different classes of assessment. First, an amount derived from a levy of 1.7 per cent on household furniture (above $1,000 value), merchandise, jewelry, boats, vehicles, horses, etc., or what is commonly known as tangible personal property; second, from a tax on the gross earnings of banks, trust companies, and public-service corporations; third, from the tax on moneys and credits, including moneys loaned and invested, bonds, and shares of stock, or what is generally known as intangible personal property.

The following table shows the amount of tax levied for the various classes:

Personal tax, tangible and intangible, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926

	Levy	Tax
Tangible personal property, at $1.70 per $100	$100,718,103.00	$1,712,207.75
Bonding companies, at 1½ per cent on their gross receipts	1,042,748.00	15,641.22
Title insurance companies, at 1½ per cent on their gross receipts	810,123.50	12,151.85
Building and loan associations, at 2 per cent on their gross earnings	2,481,087.50	49,621.75
Incorporated savings banks, at 4 per cent on their gross earnings less interest paid depositors	1,659,824.00	66,392.96
Electric light companies, at 4 per cent on their gross earnings	8,133,059.72	325,322.39
Telephone companies, at 4 per cent on their gross earnings	6,098,792.00	243,951.68
Street railway companies, at 4 per cent on their gross receipts	10,952,706.49	438,108.25
Gas light companies, at 5 per cent on their gross earnings	3,279,423.00	163,971.15
Georgetown Barge, Dock, Elevator & Railway Co., at 5 per cent on their gross earnings	19,353.23	967.66
National banks, at 6 per cent on their gross earnings	5,648,628.30	338,917.70
Trust companies, at 6 per cent on their gross earnings	5,709,109.00	342,546.54
Private bankers, at $500 per annum		1,500.00
Total	146,552,957.74	3,711,300.90
Increase 1926 over 1925		579,285.33
Intangible personal property 1926, at 0.05 of 1 per cent	437,085,808.00	2,185,429.04
Increase 1926 over 1925		134,898.10
Grand total for collection 1926		5,896,729.94

Number of accounts tangible property only	25,070
Number of accounts intangible property only	5,740
Number of accounts having both tangible and intangible property	38,798
Total number of accounts, tangible and intangible, 1926	69,608

Tables of real estate and personal property assessments for 13 years

ASSESSMENT OF LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, FROM 1914 TO 1926, INCLUSIVE, AS SHOWN IN YEARLY REPORTS

Year	Land	Improvements	Total	Rate	Tax
1914	$169,212,099	$175,912,045	$345,124,144	$1.50	$5,176,862
1915	208,279,494	182,029,784	390,309,278	1.50	5,854,639
1916	207,173,905	187,035,999	394,209,904	1.50	5,913,148
1917	207,355,359	194,734,873	402,099,232	1.50	6,031,488
1918	209,377,939	200,795,670	410,173,609	1.50	6,152,604
1919	208,097,025	206,513,666	414,610,691	1.50	6,219,160
1920	213,499,811	213,123,819	426,623,630	1.50	6,399,354
1921	213,785,853	221,008,933	434,794,786	1.95	8,478,498
1922	224,333,810	244,540,399	472,874,209	1.82	8,606,311
1923	335,538,719	387,660,549	723,199,268	1.30	9,401,590
1924	355,657,562	423,203,111	778,860,673	1.20	9,346,328
1925	355,752,055	463,873,517	819,625,572	1.40	11,474,758
1926	402,848,046	497,901,796	900,749,842	1.70	15,312,747

RATE ON INTANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, $3 PER THOUSAND 1918 TO 1922 INCLUSIVE, AND $5 PER THOUSAND 1923 TO 1926, INCLUSIVE

Year	Tangible personal property			Tax on public-service corporations, banks, etc., per cent on gross earnings	Tax on intangible personal property	Total
	Rate	Value	Tax			
1914	$1.50	$32,319,713.00	$484,795.70	$745,296.17		$1,230,091.87
1915	1.50	34,530,823.00	517,962.35	757,864.96		1,275,827.31
1916	1.50	35,041,985.00	525,629.77	792,712.95		1,318,312.72
1917	1.50	38,316,667.00	574,750.01	796,624.90		1,371,374.91
1918	1.50	43,140,336.00	647,105.04	835,181.95	$890,779.39	2,373,066.38
1919	1.50	56,226,510.50	843,397.66	951,234.04	880,519.34	2,675,151.04
1920	1.50	66,821,047.00	1,022,315.71	1,118,389.26	969,093.83	3,089,798.80
1921	1.95	83,844,796.25	1,634,973.53	1,472,027.91	971,848.74	4,078,849.18
1922	1.82	84,566,955.68	1,539,118.59	1,560,075.08	1,007,249.46	4,106,443.13
1923	1.30	87,588,795.93	1,138,653.88	1,596,262.58	1,825,395.45	4,560,311.91
1924	1.20	97,360,486.50	1,168,325.83	1,678,902.59	1,899,006.45	4,746,238.87
1925	1.40	99,977,565.80	1,399,685.92	1,732,329.65	2,050,530.94	5,182,546.51
1926	1.70	100,708,130.00	1,712,207.75	1,999,093.15	2,185,429.04	5,896,729.94

GAS TAX

Under the act of Congress approved April 23, 1924, motor-vehicle fuel importers are required to report monthly to this office as to the number of gallons of motor-vehicle fuel sold, used, or otherwise disposed of, and to pay a tax at the rate of 2 cents per gallon. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926, 13 companies and 3 Government agencies reported 48,054,044 gallons, and the resultant tax of $961,080.87. The Government agencies reported as having been sold to individual consumers 572,930 gallons and the companies 47,967,114 gallons. The above amounts would indicate that there was paid an average tax per car for 12 months of $9.61.

As there were reported as having been sold for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925, 41,093,525 gallons with a tax of $821,870.49, there was an increase for the fiscal year 1926 over the fiscal year 1925 of 6,960,519 gallons and an increase of tax of $139,210.38.

STATEMENT A.—*Statement showing cash income of the District of Columbia from all sources during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926, and expenditures therefrom on account of District of Columbia appropriations, trust, and special funds*

	Detail	Total	Grand total
CASH BALANCES JULY 1, 1925			
To the credit of the Disbursing Officer, District of Columbia, on account of—			
Appropriations	$1,876,056.44		
Trust and special funds	237,238.05		
		$2,113,294.49	
In the Treasury of the United States on account of—			
General fund of the District of Columbia	8,698,789.98		
Trust and special funds	703,745.86		
		9,402,535.84	
Income			
Revenues collected account general fund of the District of Columbia	22,564,805.48		
Amount transferred to the District of Columbia revenues by the United States	9,000,000.00		
Collections and credits account trust and special funds	5,016,659.14		
		36,581,464.62	
			$48,097,294.95
Disbursements			
Net expenditures from appropriations	29,869,450.16		
Excess of repays over proportion of advances chargeable to the United States account various appropriations	15,176.99		
Amount transferred to the credit of the policemen and firemen's relief fund	376,705.30		
Gross expenditures account trust and special funds	5,057,902.01		
		35,391,234.46	
CASH BALANCES JUNE 30, 1926			
To the credit of the disbursing office, District of Columbia, on account of—			
Appropriations	1,713,446.38		
Trust and special funds	186,409.46		
		1,899,855.84	
In the Treasury of the United States, on account of—			
General fund of the District of Columbia $6,147,264.54			
Surplus revenue fund, District of Columbia 4,017,608.53			
	10,164,873.07		
Trust and special funds	713,331.58		
		10,878,204.65	
			48,097,294.95

STATEMENT B.—*Account of the District of Columbia with the Treasury of the United States for receipts, other than trust and special funds, deposited in the Treasury during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926, advances from appropriations payable from the revenues of said District, and cash balances of the District of Columbia*

	Detail	Total	Grand total
Cash balance to the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia, July 1, 1925	$8,698,789.98		
Revenues of the District of Columbia deposited in the Treasury of the United States during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926	22,564,805.48		
Amount transferred to the revenues of the District of Columbia by the United States	9,000,000.00		
		$40,263,595.46	
Net advances from all appropriations during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926	29,722,017.09		
Amount transferred to the policemen and firemen's relief fund	376,705.30		
		30,098,722.39	
Balance to the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia June 30, 1926			$10,164,873.07

NOTE.—Above balance distributed as follows:

To the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia	$6,147,264.54
To the credit of the surplus-revenue fund of the District of Columbia	4,017,608.53
Total balance in the United States Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia	10,164,873.07

STATEMENT C.—*Statement of District of Columbia sinking-fund account for fiscal year ended June 30, 1926*

	Detail	Total
LIABILITIES		
District of Columbia 3.65 per cent bonds outstanding June 30, 1925	$105,800.00	
District of Columbia 3.65 per cent bonds canceled by redemption during fiscal year 1926	200.00	
District of Columbia 3.65 per cent bonds outstanding June 30, 1926		$105,600.00
Reserve to meet registered and coupon interest outstanding June 30, 1926		3,376.00
		108,976.00
Balance of cash on hand		6,332.50
Total		115,308.50
ASSETS		
Cash balance June 30, 1925		237,443.33
District of Columbia 3.65 per cent bonds redeemed and interest paid during the fiscal year 1926	367.89	
Repaid to the appropriation interest and sinking fund, District of Columbia	121,766.94	
Total		122,134.83
Cash balance June 30, 1926		115,308.50

STATEMENT D.—*Showing appropriations and revenues of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926*

	Detail	Total	Grand total
Cash revenues of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926	$22,564,805.48		
Amount credited to the revenues of the District of Columbia by the United States, pursuant to the provisions of the District of Columbia, act approved May 10, 1926	9,000,000.00		
	31,564,805.48		
Unexpended balances of lapsed appropriations, June 30, 1926	254,476.85		
	31,819,282.33		
Less amount transferred to the credit of the policemen and firemen's relief fund	376,705.30	$31,442,577.03	
Deduct amount specifically allowed District of Columbia, act of Feb. 2, 1925, to be transferred to the surplus revenue fund account	4,438,154.92		
Also credit allowed by decision of the Comptroller General of the United States	819,373.83		
	5,257,528.75		
Less amount of obligations contained in the deficiency act of Mar. 3, 1925	2,631,500.00	2,626,028.75	
Net revenues of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926			$28,816,548.28
Excess of charges over and above all of the revenues of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1925		2,017,610.33	
Charges against the revenues of the District of Columbia account of appropriations contained in the various appropriation acts affecting the District of Columbia approved during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926		24,825,758.38	
			26,843,368.71
Surplus revenues of the District of Columbia in the Treasury of the United States over and above appropriation charges June 30, 1926			1,973,179.57

LICENSE BUREAU

During the year this office collected a grand total of $310,033.85. During the same period last year there was collected a grand total of $372,707.97, showing a decrease of $62,674.12. This decrease is attributable to the facts the fee for automobile tags for the first half of the fiscal year 1925, or from July 1 to December 31, 1925, was $3, $5, and $10, based upon the horsepower of the vehicles, and that for the fiscal year 1925 this office collected $33,681 on operator's permits, the issuance of which is now charged to the director of traffic and the fees carried on his books.

Practically all miscellaneous licenses are issued under section 7 of the act of Congress approved July 1, 1902. Since the passage of this act many of the businesses defined therein are practically extinct, among them being carriage and wagon builders, cattle dealers, railroad ticket brokers, which business was declared illegal by Congress; the licenses for claim agents and stockbrokers have been declared unconstitutional by the District of Columbia courts.

Also since the passage of that act new businesses have come into existence, which should be licensed, and in some cases the phraseology of the present law should be defined more clearly in order to make the enforcement of the said law easier.

Automobile tags

	Number	Amount
1925	112,155	$166,691.00
1926	128,427	135,314.00
Increase in number of tags	16,272	
Decrease in money	-------	30,877.00

Miscellaneous licenses

	Number	Amount
1926	14,454	$172,095.53
1925	14,354	169,950.47
Total increase	100	2,134.88

PURCHASING OFFICE

Through this office are purchased all supplies, stores, materials, and equipment required by the various divisions of the government of the District of Columbia.

The total expended during the year amounted to $3,936,180.45, embracing supplies and materials of every conceivable nature, which may be classified generally as follows:

Agriculture supplies	$8,319.14
Automobile supplies	47,227.25
Books, school, blank, reference, binding, and binding material	143,467.87
Construction material, used in road, street, and sewer work	952,100.91
Drugs and chemicals, hospital and biological and hospital supplies	37,720.10
Dry goods, clothing, boots, and shoes	95,357.44
Electrical supplies, including cable and fire-alarm boxes	99,349.12
Fire-fighting apparatus and supplies	108,283.99
Flags, batons, revolvers, holsters, insignia	7,520.29

Food supplies:	
Eggs and milk	$39,355.58
Groceries, poultry, meats, and fish	214,346.40
Vegetables and fruits	20,173.91
Forage	132,206.06
Fuel, including liquid fuel	416,574.00
Furniture and housefurnishings, office equipment	129,443.72
Hardware, plumbing supplies, paints, oils, and lumber	487,137.02
Heating apparatus, ranges, stoves, radiators, etc	20,494.93
Ice	12,563.83
Laundry equipment and laundry	7,641.13
Lighting service, gas and electric, buildings only	100,422.30
Machinery, engines, boilers, pumps, tanks, and repairs	81,405.62
Pianos and tuning thereof	4,624.99
Playground, athletic and kindergarten supplies	22,517.82
Postage	23,711.00
Printing and engraving	60,713.29
Repairs, miscellaneous, including minor, to buildings	22,758.47
Saddlery	6,198.95
Stationery	84,277.01
Tags, motor vehicle, dog, wagon, badges	17,869.55
Telegraph and telephone service	32,237.14
Transportation, cars, freight, expressage, and freight	59,796.95
Typewriters and repairs thereto	17,663.82
Vehicles, motor, horse, and repairs thereto	159,489.26
Miscellaneous	263,211.59
Total	3,936,180.45

CADETS AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

The District of Columbia is entitled, under Chapter XXII of section 1 of "An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919," approved July 9, 1918, and other laws, to four cadetships in the United States Military Academy. The cadets at present are William Hamilton Hunter for the term ending June, 1927, and Horace S. Beall, jr., Thomas Joseph Brennan, jr., and Mercer Christie Walter, for the term ending June, 1928.

MIDSHIPMEN AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Under a provision in the act of Congress entitled "An act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1919, two midshipmen from the District of Columbia are in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. These midshipmen are James Alvin Adkins and Charles Bowling Martell for the terms to be completed in June, 1930. Joseph Lenoir Bird and Vilhelm Klein Busck graduated last June. In the appropriation for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927, the number of midshipmen to be appointed from the District of Columbia is restricted to two.

CORPORATION COUNSEL

In the court of appeals, 11 cases in which the District was a party were decided, 9 in favor of the District and 2 adverse. Seven cases are now pending.

In the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, in actions at law, 22 new suits were instituted in which the District was a party. Of the cases disposed of during the fiscal year, 1 was dismissed by plaintiff; 3 resulted in favor of the District and 4 adverse, in one of which latter an appeal was taken and is now pending.

Nineteen new equity suits in which the District was a party were filed in the Supreme Court of the District. Of the cases disposed of, 2 were decided adversely; 3 were decided in favor of the District; 1 was settled by compromise settlement; 6 were dismissed by plaintiffs; 9 cases are now pending.

In the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, holding a district court, 33 condemnation cases were pending at the beginning of the fiscal year and 40 new cases have been filed during the year. Of this number, 18 verdicts of condemnation were finally ratified and confirmed; 4 were discontinued; 1 was dismissed by the court; of 4 cases pending in the court of appeals, 1 was decided adversely to the District and 1 appeal was dismissed, leaving 2 cases still pending in the court of appeals—the same being the cases involving the site for the Western High School athletic field; and 40 cases are now pending on the docket of the supreme court.

Two habeas corpus cases were filed against the District, and the petitions in both cases were dismissed.

Ten replevin suits were filed against officials of the Metropolitan police department and the claimants were allowed to recover upon satisfying the court of their ownership of the goods.

In the municipal court, exclusive of actions in replevin, 3 cases were discontinued; 1 case was decided adversely to a police officer, 1 consent judgment was entered against the District, and 3 cases are pending.

This office has represented the District in one administration proceeding and in four lunacy proceedings.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926, this office, in conjunction with the Board of Charities of the District of Columbia, has secured reimbursement to the District in the sum of $50,616.38, due from the estates of persons adjudged to be of unsound mind and committed to St. Elizabeths; said amount representing the cost of care and treatment of these persons in said institution.

In lunacy proceedings, in inquiries before a judge and jury, of the total number of 457 patients, 379 persons were found to be of unsound mind and were committed to the Government Hospital for the Insane. Twenty-one were adjudged not insane and discharged from St. Elizabeths, while nine cases were dismissed on motion of the assistant corporation counsel, it appearing that these patients, although of unsound mind, could, nevertheless, be cared for by relatives or friends, without the public interest suffering thereby.

In the juvenile court, 1,954 cases were filed, involving 1,717 court hearings.

Informations to the number of 64,433 were filed against offenders in the police court, and fines and forfeitures aggregating $336,611.41 were collected.

The general work of the office consisted of the approval of 119 bonds, 326 contracts, 288 tax deeds, 10 right-of-way deeds, 49 licenses,

28 leases, and 12 special agreements. Two hundred and fifty-two formal opinions were rendered. A great many other opinions were given orally to the heads of departments and officials, and a large number of consultations had, of which no record is kept. Four hundred and seven reports of accidents and claims for damages were investigated and the reports of the investigations filed for future reference.

Three hundred and twenty-nine claims for damages to lamp posts were referred to this office for collection and the sum of $1,956.95 was collected on this account.

The inspector of claims of this office conducts the business of the District of Columbia branch of the employees' compensation commission. Three hundred and sixty-nine employees were injured and given medical treatment, and also received compensation in the total amount of $8,114.42. In addition a total of $5,262.47 was expended for widows, minor children, and doctors' and hospital bills.

A representative from this office presided at all of the hearings before the policemen's and firemen's retiring and relief board and also at the trial board hearings of the police department. A representative participated as counsel at all hearings of the fire department trial board. A representative from this office is also frequently called upon to attend inquests at the District of Columbia morgue whenever a fatality occurs in which either the fire or police departments or other municipal agencies are concerned.

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

The revenues of the department and their sources were as follows:

License fees and taxes collected in 1925

Licenses for companies, associations, and orders	$10,725.92
Licenses for principal agents	14,808.52
Licenses for solicitors	13,033.24
Licenses for brokers	2,754.26
Assignments of licenses	118.00
Miscellaneous revenues	712.00
Taxes	241,901.93
Total	284,053.87
The total revenues in 1924 amounted to	273,323.07
Increase of 1925 over 1924	10,730.80

The operating expenses of the department in 1925 were as follows:

Expenditures in 1925

Salaries of all employees	$18,032.52
Contingent expenses	1,881.26
Total	19,913.78
In 1924 the operating expenses of the department were	16,698.22
Increase	3,225.56

While the revenues increased $10,730.80, the cost of operation of the department increased $3,225.56.

ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND SURPLUS

In checking up and comparing the assets, liabilities, and surplus of all the companies and associations doing business in the District of Columbia in 1925 we find the following interesting information:

The total assets of all the companies and associations in 1925 amounted to	$13,769,085,159.34
In 1924 they amounted to	12,345,292,713.43
Or a gain of	1,423,792,445.91

This department licensed during the calendar year 1925 a total of 441 companies and associations, which was a gain of 9 over the preceding year.

The total premiums collected and the losses paid in the District of Columbia during 1925 were as follows:

	Premiums collected	Losses paid
Life, fraternal, and assessment	$16,516,057.07	$4,620,070.06
Fire and marine	3,366,700.63	1,152,517.77
Miscellaneous	2,436,887.59	847,309.85
Total	22,319,645.29	6,619,897.68

The total premiums collected in 1925 amounted to $22,319,645.29, or a gain of $2,682,322.71, while the losses paid during the same year amounted to $6,619,897.68, or a gain of $106,013.35.

FIRE INSURANCE

Below is a comparative statement showing premiums received, losses paid, and the loss ratio to the premiums received for the past 10 years in the District of Columbia:

	Premiums received	Losses paid	Percentage
1916	$871,944.81	$348,684.45	39
1917	988,277.03	150,902.44	15 3/5
1918	1,208,030.03	231,140.60	19 1/10
1919	1,553,605.85	561,784.62	36 1/5
1920	1,860,474.07	424,310.19	22 4/5
1921	1,644,984.74	589,198.18	35 4/5
1922	1,996,996.79	1,099,187.28	55
1923	2,442,344.58	819,799.52	33 1/2
1924	2,234,029.11	871,674.30	39
1925	2,521,798.62	847,686.35	33 3/5
Grand total	17,322,485.63	5,944,277.93	34 3/10

The total liabilities in 1925 were	$11,778,581,912.28
In 1924 they amounted to	10,581,548,049.29
Or a gain of	1,197,033,862.99
The total surplus in 1925, including capital, was	1,990,503,247.06
In 1924 it amounted to	1,763,744,664.14
Or a gain of	226,758,582.92

COMPANIES ENTERING OR WITHDRAWING

Eleven life, 4 casualty, 2 fraternal, 20 fire insurance companies or associations, and 2 reciprocals entered the District during the year, while the following withdrew: One casualty, 7 fire, and 1 life insurance company.

NEW COMPANIES

The Lincoln Assurance Co. of America, Washington, D. C., was organized in the District during the year with $100,000 capital and $50,000 surplus.

EXAMINATIONS

The department made eight examinations of insurance companies and associations.

NEED FOR NEW INSURANCE LEGISLATION

The lack of up-to-date insurance laws has caused a number of large insurance companies to locate elsewhere. Hartford, Conn., with a population of less than 150,000, has life insurance companies alone domiciled there representing assets of over $760,000,000, not mentioning the large fire, casualty, and surety companies also having their home offices in that city.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

During the year inspectors made 11,102 official visits to the various business establishments engaged in selling commodities which come within the purview of the weights and measures law and which use instruments which the law requires to be examined and tested. Such establishments range from the smallest shops to the largest department stores and manufacturing plants.

The total number of examinations of equipment, including commercial and prescription scales, weights, capacity measures, gasoline dispensing pumps, fabric-measuring machines, milk bottles, and other instruments was 1,552,902. Of this number 1,513,386 were found correct and approved, 1,669 were adjusted before being approved, and 39,516 were condemned. Of those condemned, such as could be repaired were reinspected after being repaired, and if found correct were then approved. It was necessary to confiscate and destroy in accordance with law 32,023 instruments, including a large number of milk bottles which failed to meet legal requirements.

The number of official visits to business establishments showed an increase of 1,356 over last year. The number of special and surprise inspections showed an increase of 234.

All complaints received were carefully investigated, and while it is the policy to correct irregularities by means of warning and helpful instructions when possible to do so, there were instituted during the year 123 prosecutions. The defendant in one case was acquitted, and two cases were still pending in court at the end of the year. Fines and forfeitures in the remainder amounted to $1,298. In addition to making investigations as a result of complaints received, inspectors are instructed while on regular inspection work to be on the alert

for discovery of violations of the law, and special investigations or general surveys are made from time to time for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the law is being observed. Much attention is given to sales of basic necessities, such as bread, ice, coal, gasoline, package foods, milk, etc.

The work of the department, so far as weights and measures is concerned, has vastly increased during the past few years; first, on account of numerous new duties imposed under the act of Congress of 1921, and second, on account of increased population and business expansion. It has been impossible, with the present small inspection force, to carry out the law fully and perform all the detailed work required, and for that reason there is very great need for an increase in the number of inspectors.

DISTRICT MARKETS

The District owned and operated markets are the Farmers' Produce Market, located on the area surrounded by Tenth, Twelfth, B, and Little B Streets NW.; Western Market, Twenty-first and K Streets NW.; Eastern Market, Seventh and C Streets SE.; and the fish wharf and market, Eleventh and Water Streets SW.

The Farmers' Produce Market is a valuable municipal institution in several respects. Farmers and truckers in the territory surrounding Washington are afforded good facilities for disposing of their produce to best advantage, and at the same time this market offers opportunity to consumers and retail merchants to buy the best grades of home-grown fruits and vegetables directly from producers at lower prices than they would otherwise have to pay. A daily charge of 20 cents is made for each space wide enough for a vehicle. A total of 57,892 spaces were occupied during the year. The fish wharf and market is occupied by dealers who do a large volume of wholesale and considerable retail business. An estimate, believed to be conservative, places the volume of business at the fish market at more than $2,000,000 per year. The Eastern and Western Markets are old structures, and are not equipped with modern fixtures and appliances. They are occupied by numerous dealers who do a retail business in meats, fruits, vegetables, and various other food commodities. It is believed that if the District is going to continue to operate retail markets such as the two last named, they should be well equipped and serve as models for privately owned establishments of similar character.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education is composed of nine members, who shall have been for five years immediately preceding their appointment bona fide residents of the District of Columbia, and three of them shall be women. They are appointed by the judges of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

The commissioners are indebted to the courtesy of the Board of Education for the following synopsis of public-school conditions in the District of Columbia during the fiscal year embraced in this report.

For further details see the report of the superintendent of schools.

DAY SCHOOLS

The whole number of pupils enrolled in the public schools of the District of Columbia was: White, 50,374; colored, 24,529; total, 74,903.

The above enrollment for the school year was distributed as follows:

	White	Colored	Total
Elementary:			
Kindergartens	3,884	1,815	5,699
Grades I–VIII	32,134	17,211	49,345
Ungraded and special	1,269	351	1,620
Vocational	84	455	539
Junior high:			
Grades VII and VIII	3,020	968	3,988
Grade IX	1,130	282	1,412
Senior high: Grades IX–XII	8,542	2,975	11,517
Normal: Grades XIII–XIV	311	472	783
Total enrollment	50,374	24,529	74,903

The total enrollment shows an increase over the previous year of 2.65 per cent.

The number of weeks in the school year was 36.

The number of school days was 181.

The day schools were in session 180.3 days.

The average number of pupils enrolled was 65,544.6.

The average number of pupils in daily attendance was 61,778.5.

The per cent of attendance was 94.3.

Teachers, principals, directors, etc.

WHITE

	Administrative principals, assistant principals, nonteaching principals, heads of departments, directors, etc.			Teachers and teaching principals			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary:									
Kindergarten		1	1		123	123		124	124
Grades I–VIII	3	27	30	2	865	867	5	892	897
Supplementary		1	1		42	42		43	43
Ungraded and special				3	52	55	3	52	55
Vocational	1		1	5	2	7	6	2	8
Directors	2	4	6				2	4	6
Special teachers				26	123	149	26	123	149
Junior high:									
Grades VII–VIII				14	98	112	14	98	112
Miscellaneous elementary				16	19	35	16	19	35
Grade IX				4	43	47	4	43	47
Principals	4	2	6				4	2	6
Senior high:									
Grades IX–XII				96	277	373	96	277	373
Principals, etc	14	7	21				14	7	21
Normal:									
Grades XIII–XIV					22	22		22	22
Principals		1	1					1	1
Total	24	43	67	166	1,666	1,832	190	1,709	1,899

Teachers, principals, directors, etc.—Continued

COLORED

	Administrative principals, assistant principals, nonteaching principals, heads of departments, directors, etc.			Teachers and teaching principals			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary:									
Kindergarten		1	1		75	75		76	76
Grades I–VIII	5	10	15	27	382	409	32	392	424
Supplementary				3	24	27	3	24	27
Ungraded and special				1	9	10	1	9	10
Vocational	1	1	2	9	14	23	10	15	25
Directors	1	5	6				1	5	6
Special teachers				18	48	66	18	48	66
Junior high:									
Grades VII–VIII					4	38	9	29	38
Miscellaneous elementary				9					
				3	29	7	3	4	7
Grade IX				3	6	9	3	6	9
Principals	1	1	2				1	1	2
Senior high:									
Grades IX–XII				59	64	123	59	64	123
Principals, etc	8	3	11				8	3	11
Normal:									
Grades XIII–XIV				3	18	21	3	18	21
Principals	1		1				1		1
Total	17	21	38	135	673	808	152	694	846

WHITE AND COLORED

Elementary:									
Kindergarten		2	2		198	198		200	200
Grades I–VIII	8	37	45	29	1,247	1,276	37	1,284	1,321
Supplementary		1	1	3	66	69	3	67	70
Ungraded and special				4	61	65	4	61	65
Vocational	2	1	3	14	16	30	16	17	33
Directors	3	9	12				3	9	12
Special teachers				44	171	215	44	171	215
Junior High:									
Grades VII–VIII				23	127	150	23	127	150
Miscellaneous elementary				19	23	42	19	23	42
Grade IX				7	49	56	7	49	56
Principals	5	3	8				5	3	8
Senior High:									
Grades IX–XII				155	341	496	155	341	496
Principals, etc	22	10	32				22	10	32
Normal:									
Grades XIII–XIV				3	40	43	3	40	43
Principals	1	1	2				1	1	2
Total	41	64	105	301	2,339	2,640	342	2,403	2,745

SUMMER OR VACATION SCHOOLS

(From July 1, 1925, to August 11, 1925)

There were 7,020 pupils enrolled in the summer or vacation schools—white, 4,796; colored, 2,224. (See below for Americanization and playgrounds.)

	White	Colored	Total
Elementary	1,720	1,253	2,973
Junior high	326		326
Senior high	1,823	971	2,794
Total	3,869	2,224	6,093

The number of teaching centers was: White, 28; colored, 9. Of these centers, 2 were of senior high-school grade and 2 of junior high-school grade: Total, 4—white, 3; colored, 1.

Other enrollments in the summer or vacation schools were as follows:

	White	Colored	Total
Outside playground enrollment	494		494
Americanization:			
Day	162		162
Night	271		271
Total	433		433
Total	927		927

The number of teachers in charge of all summer or vacation schools was as follows: White, 178—20 male, 258 female; colored, 83—23 male, 60 female; total, 261—male 43, female 212.

NIGHT SCHOOLS

The whole number of pupils enrolled in the night schools was as follows:

	White	Colored	Total
Elementary:			
Americanization	1,022		1,022
Grades I–VIII	471	1,540	2,011
Vocational	1,663	1,152	2,815
Secondary	4,434	846	5,280
Total	7,590	3,538	11,128

Number of buildings for night-school purposes: White, 8; colored, 8; total, 16.

There were 260 teachers, excluding directors who are supervisors in the day schools:

	White	Colored	Total
Male	61	36	97
Female	112	51	163
Total	173	87	260

DEAF, DUMB, AND BLIND

Provision is made for the maintenance and tuition of deaf, dumb, and blind children. Last year there were maintained at institutions in town and out of town 78 pupils, as follows:

	White	Colored	Total
Blind	14	5	19
Deaf and dumb	50	9	59
Total	64	14	78

The athletics of the public elementary schools of the District were played off on the municipal playgrounds as usual, where teams representing the schools in basket ball, baseball, and soccer for boys; basket ball, schlag ball, and tennis for girls, played for the division and city championships. The attendance, of course, was not obligatory, but was fostered and encouraged by many school principals. These contests were supervised by the playground directors, and all balls, bats, and athletic goods were furnished by the municipal playground department.

The button test continues to be an attractive part of the playground program, about 3,000 boys and girls winning grades in athletic proficiency. In the button test the child is first trained and then tested in events recognized as body builders, such as swimming, chinning, running, hiking, and jumping.

One of the most gratifying features of the years' work was the success of the playground department in assisting adult recreation. Having but limited facilities for play for other than children, the department could do little more than organization work for the older boys. One notable instance of this was the formation of the Washington Soccer League by the department in which six teams entered. In the past soccer has been played in the playground's graded school leagues only, and it was a real victory to interest the older boys and men this past year.

Equipment on the grounds has been kept in repair by the contruction force under the direct supervision of the inspector of playgrounds. During the year this division distributed supplied and equipment, has periodically inspected all apparatus, and has provided for the housing and safe-keeping of playground stores and supplies. Baseball diamonds, soccer fields, basket ball courts, and tennis courts have been laid out and new pieces of apparatus installed.

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

AMENDED LIBRARY LAW

The library's organic act, originally passed 30 years ago and long in need of being brought up to date, was amended by Congress with the result that several obstacles which have stood in the way of speedily developing Washington's public library service are now removed. The most serious defect in the old law was that it contained no specific legislative authority for the establishment of branch libraries in separate buildings, or in public-school buildings or in rented quarters. These lacks are now met by amendments, the most important of which reads:

> Said library shall consist of a central library and such number of branch libraries so located and so supported as to furnish books and other printed matter and information service convenient to the homes and offices of all residents of the said District.

Another amendment specifically authorizes the previous practice of lending books without fees to residents of Maryland and Virginia who have regular business or employment or attend school in the District, and to other residents of adjacent counties upon payment of a fee which has been fixed by the library trustees at $3 per

annum. The commissioners are specifically empowered by another amendment to include in their estimates for appropriations sums for the maintenance of the library and branches, for the purchase of land for library buildings, and for the erection and enlargement of necessary library buildings. In the interest of good budgetary practice another amendment was enacted which requires the library after June 30, 1927, to turn over to the United States Treasury to the credit of the District all receipts from fines and penalties, which last year exceeded $15,000.

OTHER BENEFICIAL LEGISLATION

In the future the question of library sites will have consideration by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission since this is specifically called for in their recently amended law. Such consideration should be to the library's advantage in the building of branch libraries. The first branches in public-school buildings will be established during the coming year at Chevy Chase and Tenleytown. These subbranches will be opened on alternate days and one librarian will be in charge of both. The increase of $34,200 in appropriations for the coming fiscal year will also make possible small increases in personnel, Sunday and holiday opening, the binding fund, and in repairs to and equipment of buildings to the extent of $20.000.

LIBRARY SERVICE, 1925

The library circulated into Washington homes and offices 1,298,405 volumes and 118,426 mounted pictures, or 1,416,831 pieces, as compared with a total of 1,205,186 pieces in the previous year. The circulation figures for the three branches are Takoma Park, 55,275; Southeastern, 137,559; Mount Pleasant, 189,730.

The usefulness of the branches in their separate communities is shown in various ways. For many years the Takoma Park branch has been the scene of flower shows arranged by the horticultural club, and the club has shown its appreciation by presenting attractive books on gardening to the branch and by voting $100 for the purpose of beautifying the library grounds. The Southeastern branch registration files show a very satisfactory representation of the residents of the southeast as well as some from the northeast, and a large proportion of high-school students. The Mount Pleasant branch, which has just completed its first full year of adult work, reports great activity both in the adult and children's departments. Its book collection numbers 35,000 volumes, about equally divided between adult and juvenile collections. In March the girls' and boys' room opened its doors with a staff of five and service to the public 20 hours weekly, and its circulation has averaged 8,000 books a month. Lessons on the use of the library were given to pupils in near-by junior high schools. The auditorium of the branch was used 165 times for meetings of clubs and citizens' associations.

The registration statistics for the main library and branches show that 23,283 applicants were registered during the year, so that the total number of cards in force is 63,967, an increase of 3,800. Special privilege cards were issued to 450 teachers, so that the total is 1,363,

and 182 strangers availed themselves of the use of the library by making deposits of $5 each. It is becoming more and more apparent each year that persons are coming to the library with their problems, confidently expecting to receive authoritative material. Special attention is paid to the needs of each applicant, and the advisory service is being enlarged by assistants who have specialized in particular fields. Since the biography collection of the library has been placed on open shelves and readers have free access to the books a marked increase in the circulation figures of this class of literature has been noted, and many who previously read fiction almost exclusively have taken to reading biography. The stations and high schools division, which during the past year sent 8,267 books to 11 deposit stations and 19 public and parochial schools, normal schools, and colleges, circulated 40,600 volumes, an increase of 1,143, and used for reference 6,872 volumes.

REFERENCE SERVICE

Reference service covering a wide variety of subjects has been extended to persons coming to the central reference room and by telephone. The number of questions recorded was 9,613, including 1,005 telephone calls. Bibliographical work is an important part of the service rendered by the reference department. A list on American artists represented at the tenth exhibition of American paintings, held at the Corcoran Gallery, was the chief undertaking in this field during the year. In the reference room the service is general in character, covering all except scientific, technical, and business subjects, which are the special field of the industrial division. The occupations of the users of the industrial room rank as follows: 1, Government clerks; 2, students; 3, business men; 4, no occupation; 5, professional men, including teachers; 6, tradespeople; the average weekly attendance is 1,600.

CHILDREN'S WORK

The library's work with children is carried on in the schools division and four children's rooms. The circulation of 620,494 volumes is a gain of 83,588, or 15½ per cent, over the previous year. Each book used in the system is carefully read and a book note is made, giving a critical evaluation of it, a comparison between the new book and others on the same subject, and, in the case of tales, something of the story. In this way the library is assured of the quality of the books read by the children. The library cooperates with the schools by sending into classrooms carefully picked books in small numbers (one for each pupil) and leaving them for a two-month period for home circulation. The schools division last year sent 1,882 collections into 679 classrooms in 151 schools, and the circulation reached a total of 322,594.

In the picture division 118,426 mounted pictures were circulated, an increase of 5,773 over the previous year. Sets were sent to 1,065 teachers in 173 public schools of all grades, private and Sunday schools, and 4 colleges. Many teachers use the pictures as a basis for their lessons.

THE BOOK STOCK

The library's book collection numbered 295,217 volumes on June 30, 34,189 having been acquired during the year, 30,830 by purchase at an average cost of $1.39, and the remainder through gifts and copyright transfers from the Library of Congress. The number of books classified and catalogued was 33,100. The binding division bound 6,919 volumes for the main library and branches, reinforced 2,066 current magazines, and performed various services to 15,376 other books, pamphlets, etc., and constructed magazine binders for thin publications assigned to the reference department. Of the total number of books bound, 3,299 were rebound by an outside binder.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Metropolitan police district is coextensive with the District of Columbia and at present is divided into 13 police precincts with definite land area and 1 harbor precinct. The area, exclusive of that of the Potomac River south of the Washington Channel and Potomac Park, being 63.873 square miles.

The authorized uniformed force as of June 30, 1926, comprised a total of 1,344 members, including 63 special street railway crossing officers, whose salaries are by law paid by the several street railway companies. This force is classified as follows:

Major and superintendent	1
Assistant superintendents	2
Inspectors	4
Captains	12
Lieutenants	21
Sergeants	56
Privates	1,185
Total	1,281
Special street railway crossing officers	63
Total	1,344

From the above force, 221 members were assigned to special duty and 40 to detailed service—the remainder of the force being assigned to regular patrol service and plain-clothes duty.

The following are the number of changes in the force during the last fiscal year:

Resigned	43
Removed	34
Died	9
Pensioned	30
Promotions caused by deaths	4
Vacancies	1
Vacancies created by act of Congress July 1, 1925	128
Total	260

The following changes occurred in the street railway crossing force:

Resigned	12
Removed	4
Died	2
Vacancies	1
Total	19

DISCIPLINE

In its effort to maintain a strict discipline and bring about compliance with essential rules and regulations adopted by the commissioners, the department has in many instances found itself compelled to take drastic action, as will be evidenced by the following figures as to the action taken in various cases:

Dropped, either during or at the expiration of probationary year for unsatisfactory service	22
Charges dismissed	46
Fined	62
Removed	12
Reprimanded and warned	3
Required to pay debts	6
Warned	14
Finding of trial board reversed	1
Total	166

NECROLOGY

Eleven members of the force, while on active service, died during the year:

Maj. Daniel Sullivan.
Asst. Supt. Clifford L. Grant.
Lieut. James L. Giles.
Sergt. Samuel Murphy.
Detective Sergt. H. M. Vermillion.
Pvt. C. C. Koontz.
Pvt. William H. Mattingly.
Pvt. Irene L. Hubbs.
Pvt. E. A. Skinner.

STREET RAILWAY CROSSING OFFICERS

C. J. Tompkins.
W. R. Allaband.

In the death of Daniel Sullivan, the major and superintendent, the police department suffered a grevious loss. He was appointed a member of the force on April 9, 1889, after an honorable term of service in the United States Marine Corps. On August 13, 1898, he was promoted to the grade of sergeant; October 1, 1905, to the grade of lieutenant; July 1, 1906, promoted to captain; August 10, 1919, promoted to inspector; June 9, 1920, promoted to assistant superintendent; and on February 11, 1922, was appointed to head the force.

Two members of the force met violent deaths while actively engaged in the performance of their duties: Pvt. C. C. Koontz, while pursuing a speeding automobile collided with another, and sustained a fracture of the skull from which he died; Pvt. E. A. Skinner, while responding to a burglary alarm, was thrown from a motor cycle and sustained injuries from which he died.

ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

The arrests for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926, totaled 93,208 as against 73,021 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1925, an increase

of 20,187. Of this number, 54,783 were white and 38,425 colored; 83,889 were males and 9,319 females.

Of the total number arrested 91,584 were able to read and write and 1,624 could not do so.

Of the total number of arrests 2,751 were under the age of 17 years; 8,940 were over 17 and under 21 years of age; and 81,517 were over 21 years of age.

Arrests for misdemeanors totaled 89,220 as compared with 72,595 for the previous year, a net increase of 16,625.

The arrests for felonies totaled 3,988 as compared with 3,426 for the preceding year, a net increase of 562.

LIQUOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

In each precinct an officer is assigned to the specific duty of enforcing the provisions of the Volstead Act and all other acts relating to the sale and use of liquor in the District; in addition to which a special squad under the command of a captain, working from a central point, devotes its energies to the general enforcement of said laws.

By an arrangement with the Prohibition Unit, men so assigned are given special commissions as revenue officers, an arrangement which has proven of immense value to the department in its active efforts to stamp out violations of the laws referred to.

The assignment of certain members of the force to the special duty of enforcing these laws does not in any manner relieve other members from a like responsibility, and the activities of the force along the lines indicated are best shown by the following figures, which show clearly the measure of unceasing and productive activity of the department in this essential branch of law enforcement:

	1924	1925	1926
Volstead law:			
Selling liquor	1,406	1,473	1,071
Illegal possession of liquor	1,829	3,024	2,970
Transporting liquor	906	1,199	1,165
Manufacturing liquor	26	55	112
Illegal possession of still	3	3	20
Destroying evidence in liquor cases	28	12	4
Maintaining a nuisance	20	31	12
Conspiracy to defeat the Volstead law	47	46	20
Second offenses, bench warrants	5	2	0
Other sections	7	38	12
Total arrests, Volstead law	4,277	5,883	5,387
Sheppard law:			
Intoxication	9,149	10,571	12,907
Operating a vehicle while intoxicated	616	692	749
Drinking in public	184	196	161
Total arrests, Sheppard law	9,949	11,459	13,817
Seizures under Volstead law:			
Alcohol ..... gallons	1,571	2,478	1,058
Brandy ..... do	23	75	392
Benedictine ..... do	0	4	5
Champagne ..... do	7	6	13
Cognac ..... do	55	73	25
Cordials ..... do	75	0	0
Gin ..... do	1,083	573	271
Home brew ..... do	13	0	0
Rum ..... do	11	27	8
Whisky ..... do	7,885	13,685	20,966
Cider ..... do	1,596	4,088	728
Wine ..... do	2,086	887	2,158
Total seized ..... do	14,405	21,896	25,624

	1924	1925	1926
Seizures under Volstead law—Continued.			
Beer.....barrels	0	20	27
Beer.....gallons	0	0	1,196
Beer.....bottles	4,162	4,486	5,130
Extracts.....do	548	745	414
Mash.....gallons	2,520	7,347	51,200
Stills	26	54	114
Vehicles seized under Volstead law:			
Motor vehicles	145	301	413
Bicycles	3	1	6
Wagons	2	3	8
Total, vehicles seized	150	305	427

VICE REPRESSION

The department continues to enforce the gambling laws, in connection with which the following table of arrests, with comparative figures for the fiscal years 1925 and 1926, will be of interest:

Arrests for—	1925	1926
Adultery	228	176
Fornication	949	785
Keeping bawdy house	9	5
Keeping disorderly house	205	229
Pandering	10	10
Soliciting prostitution	107	265
Vagrancy	297	574
Violation of white slave traffic law	23	10
Making handbooks	45	35
Permitting gambling	311	434
Setting up a gaming table	15	5
Violation of lottery and policy law	7	4
Violation of Harrison antinarcotic law	89	47
Total	2,295	2,579

AUTOMOBILE THEFTS

The automobile thief is the natural development of the increased use of the automobile, and in this department the entire time of four detective sergeants is taken in investigating thefts of this character and in the recovery of stolen automobiles and the arrest of the thieves.

During the last year 2,478 automobiles were reported stolen, of which 2,247 were recovered; 318 arrests were made, of which convictions were secured in 196 cases, 33 were nolle-prossed, 45 dismissed, and 45 cases now pending.

The total value of property recovered is estimated at $211,761.

SANITARY BUREAU

A member of the police force is assigned to this bureau, which is charged with the duty of investigating cases of alleged insane persons and the preparation of necessary papers for the detention of such persons.

During the past fiscal year 457 patients were admitted to St. Elizabeths Hospital, out of whom three were readmission cases. Three hundred and sixteen persons were taken into custody by the police and held for mental observation.

TRAFFIC BUREAU

The traffic bureau reports a total of 43,856 arrests for violations of the various traffic laws and regulations, an increase of 10,747 arrests as compared with the previous fiscal year.

HACK INSPECTION SERVICE

During the year 1,575 licenses for public passenger vehicles were issued; 3,005 applications for lincenses to drive public vehicles were approved; 24,260 inspections of public vehicles were made; 900 public hack or wagon stands were inspected, and 50 complaints concerning the conduct of public-vehicle drivers investigated.

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

The school of instruction was in operation from January 4, 1926, to the close of the fiscal year, during which period 136 members of the force were given an intensive period of instruction. The police school continues to demonstrate its value to the department.

BOARD OF SURGEONS

The Board of Police and Fire Surgeons reported a total of 1,956 officers on sick leave during the year; 4,847 visits by Metropolitan police officers to the police clinic, and 897 house visits by members of the board. In addition thereto the board treated 289 members of the park police force and 49 members of the White House police force.

WOMAN'S BUREAU

During the last fiscal year the woman's bureau dealt with 1,425 cases; 1,012 complaints were made directly to the woman's bureau; 742 arrests, 566 females and 186 males, were made. Among those were 222 without employment or visible means of support. Eight hundred and eighty-four missing persons were reported, 385 of whom were returned to their homes—178 located by the members of this bureau.

HOUSE OF DETENTION

The house of detention is continuing to serve a much-needed want in the District of Columbia in the detaining of females and juveniles coming into the custody of the police.

In the year just ended the total entrants numbered 3,897. The average daily population was 39 plus, and the number of days such persons were detained was 13,677; 44,061 meals were served at an average cost per meal of 17.3 cents, or a total cost of $7,305.41. This figure as to cost takes into consideration ice, gas, food supplies, and the salary of a cook.

The average period of detention was 3.7 days.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) *Police headquarters and central station.*—The police department has in the past few years witnessed a remarkable development,

both in personnel and in the number and complexity of the problems which it is called upon to meet, and there is an ever-growing need for the erection of a modern, up-to-date building to be used as a central police station and police headquarters in order that the business with which the department is charged may be transacted with that degree of efficiency so essential to this important branch of the public service.

(2) *Garage and repair shop.*—Recommendation is again made for the erection of a modern, up-to-date garage and repair shop to properly care for the constantly increasing fleet of motor vehicles used by the department.

(3) *Special street railway crossing policemen.*—The superintendent of police has heretofore outlined the various acts of Congress providing for the establishment and maintenance of a force of street railway crossing policemen, and recommends that steps be taken to effect the transfer of the 63 men now so employed to the permanent rolls of the police force, and that an appropriation be made for the payment of salaries of such men from public funds rather than from funds of the various railway companies, as is now the case.

(4) *Fugitive law.*—It is again recommended that Congress enact legislation relative to a fugitive law which would permit the department to function more effectually with regard to fugitives coming to the District from other jurisdictions.

(5) *Concealed weapon law.*—Recommendation is again made that an adequate concealed weapon law be passed regulating the purchase and possession of deadly weapons in the District of Columbia.

(6) *Drug addiction and medical practice regulation.*—It is again recommended that legislation be enacted making drug addiction in the District of Columbia a felony, and that the medical practice act be amended so as to provide for adequate regulation of persons practicing as chiropractors and osteopaths, and of all persons who attempt to treat disease, injury, or deformity.

(7) *Vagrancy laws.*—The police have met with much difficulty recently in dealing with the question of vagrancy because of the fact that it was nearly impossible to secure the evidence held by the courts to be necessary under the present act to establish the offense.

It is submitted that a vagrancy act which will stand the test of the courts is undoubtedly one of the most powerful weapons in the hands of the police in its efforts to deal effectually with crime and disorder.

(8) *Magistrate system.*—Recommendation is made that there be established in the District of Columbia four magistrate courts, such courts to sit in various police stations at specified hours of the day and night to hear all minor cases of violations of the municipal regulations where the penalty to be imposed does not exceed a fine of $40 in any one case. The establishment of such a system would undoubtedly result in the saving of a great deal of time spent by members of the force in the police and traffic courts and would also be of benefit to the citizen in that he would be afforded an immediate trial of his case.

DIRECTOR OF TRAFFIC

The director of traffic reports that traffic conditions have improved in the District during the past year, although there was an increase of 16,272 new cars and 17,340 new drivers.

ACCIDENTS

A total of 82 persons were killed in traffic accidents during the year, as compared with 86 during the previous year. Of this number the responsibility for the deaths was fixed by coroner's juries on the drivers of the striking cars in 21 cases, on the persons killed in 7 cases, while the remaining number, 54, were declared unavoidable accidents.

Beginning in November, 1925, the director inaugurated a statistical service, which has for its object the compilation and study of all traffic accidents in the District of Columbia.

Traffic accidents totaled 3,240 during the first six months of 1926, and resulted in personal injuries to 1,087 persons. Most of these injuries were of a minor nature. Of the persons injured, 740 were pedestrians and 347 were occupants of automobiles involved in accidents. Of the 740 pedestrian accidents, 214 were children under 14 years of age.

Of the 3,240 accidents occuring during the first six months of 1926, a total of 2,447, or 76 per cent, occurred at street intersections. Eighty per cent of these accidents occurred during clear weather and 69 per cent in daylight.

A few years ago many traffic accidents and fatalities were attributed to the poor mechanical conditions of the vehicles involved, including bad brakes, glaring headlights, and defective steering gears. That there has been an improvement in this respect, due to a rigid enforcement of more adequate regulations relating to equipment, is shown by the fact that only $1\frac{3}{16}$ per cent of the 5,503 vehicles involved in traffic accidents from January to June, 1926, were found to be defective from a safety standpoint.

Out of a total of 809 accidents in which the motorist was at fault, 17 per cent were due to reckless driving, 13 per cent to careless driving, 9 per cent to skidding, 7 per cent to failing to yield right of way, 7 per cent to improper backing, and 6 per cent to intoxication of driver.

From January to June, inclusive, there were 740 pedestrians involved in accidents, 31 of whom were killed. The chief causes of these accidents are classified as follows: Crossing in the middle of block, 214; playing in the street, 71; inattention, 46; stepping from behind parked car, 31; intoxication, 19; confused by traffic, 14; working in roadway, 10.

Of the pedestrians who were killed, 13 were crossing in the middle of the block; 6 were crossing at crosswalk where there was no officer or signal; 3 were playing in the street; 3 were walking in the street; 2 were intoxicated; 1, working in roadway; 1, confused by traffic; 1, stepped from loading platform; 1, cause not given.

Of the 5,503 cars involved in accidents, 66 per cent were private passenger vehicles, 15 per cent were motor trucks, 6 per cent street cars, 4 per cent taxicabs, and 9 per cent all others.

Of the 36 fatalities, 61 per cent were caused by private passenger cars, 17 per cent by motor trucks, 11 per cent by street cars, 8 per cent by taxicabs, and 3 per cent by motorcycles.

From January to June 1,087 persons were injured in traffic accidents, of whom 36 were killed. Of the number killed, 3 were under 4 years of age, 9 between 5 and 14 years of age, and 8 were over 65 years of age.

Of the injured, 67 were under 4 years of age, 217 were from 5 to 14 years of age, while 47 were 65 years of age or over.

The afternoon peak hour, from 5 to 6, appears the time of day when most accidents occur. Dividing the day into five periods, it was found that accidents occur as follows: From noon until 5 p. m., 33 per cent; 5 until 9 p. m., 28 per cent; 7 a. m. until noon, 20 per cent; 9 p. m. until midnight, 14 per cent; and from 1 a. m. until 7 a. m., 4 per cent.

Saturday is the day on which most accidents occur in Washington, although the records show that there is no great variation between the days of the week.

DRIVERS' PERMITS

Through a careful examination of the traffic records of all drivers, an effort is being made to eliminate from the streets as quickly as possible that class of traffic violators who are responsible for serious traffic accidents and traffic deaths. The revocation and suspension of a large number of permits has already removed from the streets some of the most flagrant offenders.

Another long stride toward safety has been the development of practical tests on the mental and physical qualifications of prospective drivers, including an eye test.

Approximately 40 per cent of the 29,227 applicants for new permits during the past year were rejected on the first examination. A total of 17,340 new permits were issued during the year.

In the work of renewal of permits for the next three-year period an accurate check of the traffic records of all persons now holding permits is being made. In 500 out of 30,000 cases the records indicate that the applicants will have to be either rejected or reexamined, depending upon the seriousness of each case.

During the year just closed 455 permits were revoked under the traffic act of 1925 and 122 permits were restored. Two permits were suspended and the privilege of five nonresidents was canceled.

The reasons for the revocation of the above permits were as follows: Driving while drunk, 228; fleeing from scene of accident, 87; reckless driving, 63; speeding, 42; miscellaneous offenses, 15; insane or mentally unfit, 12; and obtaining permit by fraud, 8.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE TRAFFIC LAW AND REGULATIONS

The following digest indicates the number of arrests for the various traffic violations during 1926 as compared with 1925 under the old and new regulations, respectively.

Type of violation	Fiscal year, 1925	Fiscal year, 1926
Backing to turn in street	75	187
Coasting with gear unmeshed (new)		7
Colliding	1,207	[1] 120
Colliding and failing to stop	335	323
Cut out open	174	185
Cutting corner	387	239
Dead numbers	409	237
Disobeying sign	1,322	2,957
Driving while drunk	736	770
Engine running unattended	373	409
Failing to give signal	355	348
Failing to show permit	1,632	995
Failing to give right of way	232	315
Failing to turn in tags	40	24
Improper brakes	115	352
Loaning permit	49	31
No District of Columbia tags	247	110
No operator's permit	1,270	1,317
Obstructed tags	221	229
Obstructing crosswalks	285	383
Obstructing drinking fountain	24	30
Obstructing fire plug	123	127
Obstructing street	122	163
Obtaining permits or tags by fraud	18	41
Parking regulations (mostly overtime)	6,235	14,853
Passing at intersections	121	87
Passing signals	1,062	1,299
Passing street cars	518	429
Passing vehicle on right	72	75
Reckless driving	611	1,767
Tags not illuminated	54	25
Violating the light regulations [2]	2,355	6,373
Violating one-way traffic	372	220
Violation of the speed laws	9,925	6,728
Violation of truck overloading	14	9
Wrong side of street	277	281
Wrong way around circle	20	30
One-arm driving (new)		64
Violating pedestrian regulations (new)		75
Violating the solid-tire regulation (new)		25
Violation of horse-drawn vehicle on Sixteenth Street (new)		5
Driving through safety zone (new)		161
Failing to show registration card	1,151	916
Violation of hacking regulations (miscellaneous)	323	175
Violating miscellaneous regulations	248	360
Total	33,109	43,856

[1] The usual charge for this offense under the new law is reckless driving.
[2] Principally parking lights.

ELECTRIC TRAFFIC SIGNALS

On January 6, 1926, a system of synchronized electric traffic signals was placed in operation on Sixteenth Street NW., from I Street to Florida Avenue and on Massachusetts Avenue from Twelfth to Eighteenth Street. The operation of these signals at first caused much criticism on the part of motorists who were stopped at frequent intervals and when stopped were required to wait one and a half minutes while waiting for traffic on cross streets.

In order to remedy this situation, an entirely new system of coordinated operation was worked out and the change was effective on February 6.

The results of this system of traffic control have been marked by a decided decrease in the number of accidents at intersections controlled by the lights. Accidents at such intersections during February, March, and April showed a decrease of 58 per cent from accidents at the same intersections in November, December, and Janu-

ary, while the number of accidents in June was 7, as compared with 34 accidents in December, the last month in which there were no signals at these intersections.

During the six months of operation no serious accidents have occurred at any of the 22 intersections controlled by electric signals, and in that time only one pedestrian has been hit.

The director of traffic recommends that during the coming year $350,000 available from the reissuance of operators' permits authorized by Congress be used to complete the installation of electric traffic signals on the following streets:

Massachusetts Avenue, from New Jersey Avenue to Twenty-second Street NW.

Rhode Island Avenue, from North Capitol Street to Seventeenth Street NW.

Maryland Avenue from Second Street to Fifteenth Street NE.

Vermont Avenue from H Street to Iowa Circle.

Florida Avenue from Eighteenth Street to Twenty-second Street NW.

E Street from North Capitol Street to Thirteenth Street NW.

K Street from Ninth Street to Twenty-second Street NW.

Pennsylvania Avenue and M Street from Twenty-fourth Street to Thirty-fifth Street NW.

Sixth Street NW. from C Street to Rhode Island Avenue.

Thirteenth Street NW. from E Street to Iowa Circle.

Fifteenth Street NW. from H Street to T Street.

Seventeenth Street NW. from H Street to New Hampshire Avenue.

Eighteenth Street NW. from Pennsylvania Avenue to Florida Avenue.

Twenty-second Street NW. from K Street to Massachusetts Avenue.

This system will permit the assignment of approximately 25 traffic officers to other duty and will relieve the necessity of maintaining officers during the morning and afternoon rush hours at a large number of additional posts.

Electric flashing beacons were installed on Connecticut Avenue south of Dupont Circle to protect the street-car safety zones.

The director of traffic suggests that all safety zones and loading platforms be equipped with this type of signal as rapidly as possible.

Progress is being made under the recent legislation in connection with the suspension and revocation of drivers' permits and the reissuance of permits for the next three years.

During the past year 228 permits have been canceled on account of convictions of driving while intoxicated. During this same period 770 arrests were made for this offense.

In practically every case where a driver is arrested for driving while under the influence of liquor he demands and secures a jury trial, but the trials are delayed on account of the crowded condition of the docket.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE LOSS

The estimated fire loss from fire in the District of Columbia during the year was $1,268,954. This is an increase of $431,758 over

the amount of the loss for the preceding year, and practically the entire amount thereof was caused by the fire in the United States Army air station, Bolling Field, Anacostia, D. C., which occurred on January 26, 1926, and in which property value at $399,740 was destroyed.

During the year the department responded to more alarms of fire than in any previous year in its history, the total being 3,647. This figure is 769 in excess of the number received during the preceding fiscal year. False alarms numbered 297, an increase of 70 over the fiscal year 1925.

FIRE PREVENTION

Inspection work and supervision over the storage and handling of highly combustible materials have been continued. The good results obtained from these activities are far-reaching and assist in no small measure in reducing the fire waste. The usual observance of fire-prevention week aided in bringing to the attention of the public the necessity for care in the use of fire.

DISCIPLINE

Six members of the department were removed during the year for violation of the rules and regulations. Serious infractions were few in number and the conduct of the men was uniformly excellent.

PENSIONS

Twelve officers and members of the department were retired and granted pensions during the year. Six widows were also granted relief.

DEATHS

Pvts. J. L. Mann, G. A. Caffrey, and E. F. Laughton died during the year. Private Mann was killed while responding to an alarm, in a collision between fire apparatus and a street car. Private Laughton was killed by a falling chimney at a fire.

The death of the following pensioners also occurred: P. D. Martin, W. H. J. Bradekamp, William Luskey, James Childs, and Mary V. Lewis.

NEW COMPANIES

No. 29 Engine Company, Conduit Road and Reservoir Street NW., and No. 13 Truck Company, Florida Avenue and Orren Street NE. were placed in service on December 29, 1925.

No. 14 Truck Company was placed in service in the quarters of No. 28 Engine Company, Connecticut Avenue between Ordway and Porter Streets NW., on June 15, 1926.

The installation of these three additional units in the Department has provided greatly increased fire protection for the localities which they serve.

REORGANIZATION OF BATTALIONS

During the year an additional battalion district, known as the Central Battalion, was created, with headquarters at No. 2 Engine

House, Twelfth Street between G and H Streets NW. Also the headquarters of the First and Third Battalions were transferred to No. 12 Engine House, North Capitol and Quincy Streets NW., and No. 8 Engine House, North Carolina Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets SE., respectively.

The organization of the Central Battalion provides greatly increased fire protection for the hazardous section of the city, and the relocation of the First and Third Battalions places the battalion chief engineers in question at points more closely approximating the center of their first alarm districts.

CALLING THE OFF-DUTY PLATOON

A new plan for calling the off-duty platoon when such action is made necessary by additional alarms or other emergencies was adopted and placed in service during the year. The telephone is utilized, four special trunk lines having been installed at fire department headquarters for this purpose, and the local telephone company assigns special operators to these lines whenever a general call is to be made. All members of the department must provide themselves with means to be reached over the telephone. The headquarters detail, under the direction of the chief clerk, is required to report at the office of the chief engineer upon all third (or over) alarms, and this force calls by telephone the off-duty men. If the emergency arises during office hours these men are, of course, on duty, but, as is usually the case, if the necessity arises during the night hours, the chief clerk and the detailed men are notified by fire alarm headquarters and are required to report for duty.

This plan has produced excellent results.

NEW APPARATUS

The following new apparatus was purchased and placed in service:

A gasoline and oil tank truck was placed in service in No. 4 Truck House.

An aerial truck was placed in service in No. 13 Truck House.

One combination hose wagon and one 750-gallon pumping engine was placed in service in No. 5 Engine House.

One combination hose wagon was placed in service in No. 28 Engine House.

One 750-gallon pumping engine was placed in service in No. 13 Engine House.

One 1,000-gallon pumping engine was placed in service in No. 23 Engine House.

One roadster automobile was placed in service in No. 1 Truck House (since transferred to No. 2 Engine House).

One roadster automobile was placed in service in No. 14 Engine House.

An additional roadster automobile, purchased to replace a car which was demolished in an accident, is now on hand and will be placed in service in the near future.

Most of this new apparatus replaced old out-of-date, unreliable machines, and the service is correspondingly bettered thereby.

HEALTH OFFICE

POPULATION

The population of the District of Columbia continues to steadily and rapidly increase. The estimate of the United States Bureau of the Census gives the total population as 497,906, of which 378,261 are white, and 119,645 colored.

VITAL STATISTICS

Deaths—The total number of deaths during the calendar year 1925 were 7,016, an increase of 463 over the preceding year. The white deaths numbered 4,302 and the colored 2,714. The general death rate rose from 13.46 in the previous year to 14.09 in the year just closed. The white rate increased from 11.22 in the year 1924 to 11.37 in 1925, and the colored from 20.44 in the year 1924 to 22.68 in the year 1925. The increased number of deaths were due principally to diseases of the heart. The number of persons dying from tuberculosis or pneumonia were, however, reduced. During the calendar year 1924, 741 deaths resulted from pneumonia, while during the year just closed 640 deaths occurred from that disease. Organic heart disease with 1,153 deaths, nephritis 555, pneumonia 640, tuberculosis 548, apoplexy 493, and diarrhea with 214, constituted the most potent causes of death during the year.

Births.—The general birth rate fell from 19.22 in the calendar year 1924 to 18.42 in the year just closed.

Infant mortality.—The death rate among infants under 1 year of age also increased from 75.7 in the year 1924 to 87.3 in the year just closed, the white rate being 67.5 and the colored 131.1, in the year 1925, as against 61.1 and 109.2, respectively, in the year 1924. The principal increase occurred among the colored population.

Rabies.—Rabies continues on the increase in this district. One hundred and two dogs were reported to the health department as rabid or suspected of being rabid during the calendar year 1925. Post-mortem examination of these dogs at the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, showed 91 to be suffering from rabies at the time of death. Sixty-seven persons were bitten during the year by dogs, cats, or other animals, shown by post-mortem findings to be rabid.

On June 19, 1925, the commissioners, as has been the custom for some years past, issued a proclamation requiring the muzzling of all dogs running at large. This order became effective June 1, 1925, and continued for three months.

ADMINISTRATION

Bureau of Preventable Diseases

The contagious-disease service handled a total of 12,098 cases of all kinds during the fiscal year as follows: Infantile paralysis, 21; chickenpox, 1,000; diphtheria, 807; epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis, 4; measles, 6,764; pellagra, 7; scarlet fever, 983; smallpox, 14; tuberculosis, 1,157; typhoid fever, 81; whooping cough, 1,084; and influenza, 176.

Diphtheria.—This disease was somewhat more prevalent during the calendar year 1925 than during the preceding year. While the number of cases increased, the death rate decreased from 6.2 per cent in 1924 to 5.4 per cent in 1925.

Attention is called to the fact that in recording cases of diphtheria so-called "carriers" are included with "clinical" cases.

During the year 2,555 children were given the "Schick" test. Of this number 1,902 were done in the public schools, 326 at "child welfare centers" and 327 in orphanages. Of the 2,555 children "Schicked" 2,044 reacted positively, and all but a few of these were given immunizing injections.

Scarlet fever.—Scarlet fever continued very prevalent throughout the year. A total of 1,011 cases with 5 deaths were reported, a mortality rate of 0.4 per cent. As during the preceding year, the cases were mostly of a very mild type.

Smallpox.—During the calendar year 1925, 59 cases of smallpox were reported, 20 of which died, a death rate of 33 per cent. The cases were of a very severe form, several being of the "hemorrhagic" type.

An appropriation was obtained during the last session of Congress for the purchase, equipment, and maintenance of a motor ambulance for conveying persons suffering from smallpox to the hospital for treatment. The placing in service of this new ambulance will permit the removal of patients with much more comfort and expedition.

Typhoid fever.—One hundred and twenty-six cases of typhoid fever with 25 deaths were recorded during the calendar year 1925, as against 133 cases with 19 deaths during the preceding year. In 27 of the cases the infection was traced to sources outside the District of Columbia.

Ambulance service.—Five hundred and eighty-one patients suffering from minor contagious diseases were removed to the isolation hospitals during the year 1925.

Isolation wards.—Attention is again called to the urgent need for the erection of a suitable building for the care and treatment of persons suffering from minor contagious diseases. Something should be done to provide a modern hospital for contagious diseases, and I again renew my recommendation that an earnest effort be made to secure the necessary appropriation for this purpose.

Disinfecting service.—Seventeen hundred and forty-eight premises were disinfected during the fiscal year for the following diseases: Diphtheria, 564; scarlet fever, 776; smallpox, 10; tuberculosis, 387; infantile paralysis, 8; and 3 miscellaneous.

Public crematorium.—Four hundred and sixty bodies were cremated during the fiscal year, 21 of which were adults, 142 infants, and 299 stillborn babies.

Bacteriological laboratory.—The work done by this branch of the health department was much greater than during the preceding year. A total of 21,243 specimens of all kinds were examined, as against 17,616 during the previous year. In nine cases of diphtheria in which the germ persisted for a considerable length of time in the nose or throat, a virulence test was made, with the result that in five of the cases the organism was found to be of the nonvirulent type and the patients released from further quarantine.

Bathing pools.—As heretofore close attention was given the public bathing pools. Specimens of water were frequently collected from these pools and examined bacteriologically. These examinations showed an improvement in the care of the various pools and better sanitary measures taken in regard to the bathers as well as the surroundings.

Wells and water supplies.—In an effort to keep close supervision over the drinking water supply 1,540 samples were collected and analyzed. These samples were collected from the public supply, private wells, and from common carriers entering and leaving the District of Columbia.

Milk and cream.—A very close supervision of the milk and cream sold in the District of Columbia has, as heretofore, been maintained throughout the year, and the quality of milk and cream sold in the District is, I believe, second to none in the country.

Lead-poison investigation.—An investigation was started to determine the extent of lead hazard in persons engaged in certain occupations. This investigation, however, has not been under way a sufficient length of time to enable the department to draw any definite conclusions.

Serological laboratory.—Six thousand four hundred and sixty specimens of all kinds were examined during the fiscal year. One thousand one hundred and fifty-eight smears examined for the diagnosis of "gonorrhea" resulted in the finding of the germ of the disease in 402 of these specimens.

Chemical laboratory.—During the fiscal year the following-named samples were collected and examined: Drugs, 5; milk, 9,060; cream, 317; other foods, 344; water, 140; feces and urine for lead poisoning, 20; dust from establishments to determine presence of lead, 5; and miscellaneous, 6. In addition 14 specimens were examined for the police department and 8 for the coroner.

DISPENSARIES

Tuberculosis division.—Eight hundred and fifty-seven new patients applied for examination during the fiscal year. Two hundred and ten of these were found to be suffering from tuberculosis, 260 showed no evidence of that disease, and in the remaining cases the diagnosis was "pending" at the close of the year.

A total of 7,270 visits to the clinic were made by all patients. Four thousand four hundred and ten visits were made by nurses to homes of patients and 1,532 X-ray pictures were made.

Venereal disease division.—This clinic continues to grow. The fiscal year just closed showed that 2,491 new patients applied for examination and treatment, and of this number 623 were white and 1,868 colored. Fifty-one patients were under 5 years of age and 379 between the ages of 5 and 15 years. The total number of visits made to the clinic by all patients was 16,515, an increase of 1,545 over the preceding year. Two thousand four hundred and eighty-three Wassermann examinations were made, 4,313 salvarsan, and 5,028 mercury injections given.

Sanitary officer.—On February 15, 1926, the work formerly done by the "sanitary officer" under the direction of the police department was transferred to the health department by order of the

commissioners. The duties of this official consists in handling persons suffering from or believed to be suffering from mental derangement.

During the fiscal year 1926, 454 new patients were admitted, at the request of the District, to the Government Hospital for the Insane, and 3 other cases readmitted. Three hundred and sixteen persons were taken into custody by the police and held for mental observation.

Of the total of 457 cases handled, 379 were tried and adjudged insane by the lunacy court and committed to the hospital. Twenty-one were adjudged not insane and were released from custody. In 9 cases the proceedings were dismissed, 29 were discharged by the superintendent of the hospital before trial, 7 died before being brought to trial, 4 were admitted to the hospital on duplicate permits, 3 transferred to veterans' roll, and 5 had not been disposed of at the close of the year.

Medical and dental inspection of public schools.—During the school year a total of 7,699 visits were made by medical inspectors to school buildings and 102 visits to the homes of pupils. Forty-nine thousand one hundred and forty-six examinations of pupils were made. Four thousand eight hundred and seventy-one pupils were excluded from school for various causes.

An effort was made to physically examine as many pupils in the kindergarten and first grades as was possible. The total number examined was 3,571, and of that number 3,314, or 92.8 per cent, were found to have some physical defect. The principal defects found were: Defective teeth, 63.5 per cent; diseased tonsils, 45.3 per cent; enlarged glands, 27.5 per cent; poor nutrition, 23.7 per cent; nasal breathing, 18.2 per cent; defective vision, 12.6 per cent; orthopedic defects, 10.6 per cent; anemia, 5.7 per cent; skin and parasitic disease, 5.6 per cent; pulmonary disease, 4 per cent; speech defect, 3.8 per cent; chronic nasal catarrh, 3.7 per cent; nervous system, 3.4 per cent; and cardiac disease, 2.2 per cent.

These findings show that a large percentage of pupils entering the public schools in this District are seriously handicapped by physical defects, urgently in need of correction. All school children should be examined and their physical defects, if possible, corrected before entering school.

The present corps of medical inspectors of schools is very inadequate, and with such a limited force it is impossible to give the pupils the medical supervision they should have.

I urgently recommend that renewed efforts be made to secure a more adequate service.

One thousand six hundred and eighty-four applicants for teaching positions and for admission to the normal school were examined to determine their fitness for the work they desired to do. Six hundred and seven were passed, 952 passed conditionally, 119 rejected temporarily, and 6 rejected permanently. Five hundred and thirty-three applicants were examined for child-labor permits.

Dental inspectors examined a total of 22,388 pupils and 1,684 applicants for teaching positions during the year.

Dental operators treated during the year at the four dental clinics a total of 4,501 pupils. Twelve thousand six hundred and ninety-

nine fillings, 5,023 extractions, and 13,711 other operations were performed.

The school nurses handled during the year 14,780 pupils having physical defects of some kind. The present corps of school nurses is inadequate to properly carry on the work and a determined effort should be made to secure a larger staff.

BUREAU OF FOOD INSPECTION

The food inspectors made a total of 92,954 inspections during the year. Three thousand five hundred and thirty food-producing and vending establishments were registered at the close of the year.

One thousand five hundred and thirty-six dairy farms with cattle totaling 30,535 producing milk for the District of Columbia were also registered at the close of the year.

Four hundred and thirty prosecutions for violation of food laws and regulations were instituted resulting in fines and forfeitures amounting to $5.278.

BUREAU OF SANITARY INSPECTION

General nuisance inspections.—The total number of complaints received and acted upon during the year was 6,766. These complaints necessitated a total of 9,559 inspections and 20,871 reinspections to be made.

During the year the sanitary inspectors made approximately 77,553 visits. Violations of law or regulations for the prevention and abatement of nuisances were reported in 11,211 instances, and in 405 cases legal proceedings were brought to secure the abatement of the nuisance. The total fines and forfeitures amounted to $850.

Under the assessment system of notices 492 nonresident owners of property were notified to abate certain nuisances on their property in this District. In 49 instances it was necessary to have the work done by the District and the cost, amounting to $1,960, assessed against the property involved.

SMOKE INSPECTION

A total of 12,016 observations were made during the year and 62 cases were referred for prosecution, resulting in fines and forfeitures amounting to $620.

EIGHT HOUR FEMALE LABOR LAW

One hundred and thirteen complaints were received and acted upon. In 33 instances legal proceedings were instituted. The amount of fines and forfeitures amounted to $755. The number of establishments coming within the purview of the eight hour female labor law was 1,158.

CHILD-HYGIENE SERVICE

Seven child-hygiene stations were maintained throughout the year. This work, which is being conducted in the interest of children under 6 years of age, is rapidly growing. Appropriation having

been secured for the purpose two new hygiene stations were opened, one located at No. 5327 Georgia Avenue NW. and one at No. 1201 Talbert Street SE.

The total number of visits made during the year by children to the various stations was 29,574.

BOARDING HOMES AND NURSERIES

During the year 53 applications to maintain boarding homes for children were received. Of these, 30 only were granted permits. There are now 124 permits in force and effect. A decided improvement has been noted in the maintenance of these homes as compared with conditions existing previous to the passage of the regulations governing them.

THE POUND SERVICE

Animals to the number of 5,740 were received at the pound, including 45 dogs left over from the previous year. Of these, 4,407 were dogs, 28 horses, 2 mules, 1 goat, and 1,302 cats. Three hundred and seventy-four dogs were sent to the pound for observation on account of having bitten some person or animal.

The following fees were collected during the year:

Redemption of animals	$1,048.00
Sales of animals	1,014.50
Reimbursement for food	422.50
Total	2,485.00

BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

Correspondence and files.—One thousand and seventy-six letters and 5,619 oral complaints were received. Fourteen thousand and seventy-four letters were sent out by the department and 1,767 special reports handled and filed.

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Nine thousand and thirty-four births, 508 stillbirths, and 7,481 deaths were recorded during the year.

Three thousand one hundred and forty-six transcripts from the records of deaths and births were issued.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE

The Board of Charities, the Board of Children's Guardians, and the board of trustees of the National Training School for Girls were abolished by act of Congress, effective July 1, 1926. A new organization, a Board of Public Welfare, succeeds to all the duties and obligations of the former boards and in addition thereto has some additional duties vested in it by act above referred to. The usual statistical and other general information covering the activities of the various public charitable and correctional agencies has been assembled and printed as the Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Board of Charities.

The new Board of Public Welfare was organized July 1, 1926, and immediately began to function. The law vests in this board "complete and exclusive control and management of the several public, charitable, and correctional institutions of the District of Columbia."

The new board is also charged with the administration of the system of relief "to provide home care for dependent children" established by act of Congress approved June 22, 1926.

The passage of the act establishing a Board of Public Welfare and the act providing for home care for dependent children are two of the most important legislative changes relative to the public-welfare work of the District of Columbia that have been taken in many years. The act creating the Board of Public Welfare provides for the unification of all the public-welfare services under one board consisting of nine members appointed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and serving without compensation. The executive officer of the board is a director of public welfare who has immediate administrative direction of all the public-welfare agencies in the District of Columbia.

The act "to provide home care for dependent children" provides a system of relief which has generally been referred to in the various laws enacted throughout the country as "mothers' aid" or "mothers' pension." The act covering the District of Columbia centers attention upon the child rather than the mother. It provides for grants of relief to parents or guardians for the benefit of children under 16 years of age in order to "insure the proper maintenance of the child in the home." The act requires a continued supervision of the home by representatives of the Board of Public Welfare, with a view to insure the most wholesome attention for the upbringing of the child.

Among the more important appropriations made by Congress during the past year was the appropriation of funds to begin the erection of the general wards at the Gallinger Municipal Hospital, with authorization for a total expenditure for this purpose of $1,000,000. This action practically insures the vacation of the old wooden shacks that have been in use as hospital buildings for one-half century.

BOARD OF CHILDREN'S GUARDIANS

By act of Congress approved March 16, 1926, the Board of Children's Guardians was abolished, and effective July 1, 1926, its duties were vested in the new Board of Public Welfare. This, the thirty-third annual report, therefore, which covers the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926, is its final report.

Since the creation of the board on July 26, 1892, by act of Congress, the board has cared for 5,407 children during their minority, many of them from infancy. Care has been given to 8,684 for temporary periods, and 598 feeble-minded children have been educated and trained to the best of limited facilities available. Investigations have been made during the 33 years of the board's existence into the living conditions of nearly 41,000 children who had been reported to the board as neglected, abandoned, abused, or destitute.

During the past year the Board of Children's Guardians has cared for 2,373 children, an increase of 221 over last year and 327 over the preceding year. The juvenile court has committed 564 children during the past year, as compared with 449 for 1925, 404 for 1924, and 222 for 1923. On June 30, 1926, the board had 1,752 wards under guardianship, as compared with 1,693 on July 1, 1925.

Seven hundred and forty-seven situations, involving 1,473 children, were investigated during the past year upon complaint or application of persons interested, to determine if the need for public care and protection existed. In only 71 of the 747 cases was court action found necessary. The policy of the board has been to recommend separation of children from parents only as a last resort when the welfare of the child was so seriously jeopardized as to demand immediate removal from the home. Every effort was made to encourage and develop proper parental spirit and responsibility in every case.

During the year 15 wards were placed in adoption homes; 246 were placed in free homes with relatives and friends; 172 boys and girls over 16 years of age were placed on wages, where their work and living conditions were supervised by the board.

During the year 12,671 visits were made to wards in their own homes or foster homes; 9,015 teachers, relatives, and others interested were visited in their behalf; 4,909 office interviews in the interests of wards were held.

Two thousand two hundred and sixty-four medical examinations and 173 sick calls were made by staff physicians. One hundred and eighty-one children under 12 years of age were examined at Children's Hospital. The three graduate nurses made 6,673 visits to and examinations of wards. Fourteen major and 186 minor operations were performed; dentistry was completed in 462 cases. An average of 41 children were in attendance at the health-department clinic for tuberculosis, and an average of 104 were in attendance at the public-health clinic for the treatment of venereal diseases. Of the 2,373 wards under care during the year, 18 died.

During the year 1,002 applications were made for children to board, adopt, or to care for free of charge. Out of this total, 181 homes were approved.

The board has succeeded in organizing a central clinic for the examination of wards at Children's Hospital, one wing of the hospital being turned over to the exclusive use of the board three half days a week. A staff of three physicians, specialists in pediatrics, has been employed.

Supplemental appropriations for board and care and maintenance of feeble-minded were made necessary by the increased number of commitments during the past year. Additional appropriations for board and care of wards will undoubtedly be necessary during the next fiscal year.

ALIENIST

During the year 50 visits were made to St. Elizabeths Hospital. During these visits 606 cases were examined prior to their appearance in court. In this connection it was necessary to appear in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia on 44 days, and in addition to this were 6 days' attendance in court required for the commit-

ment of cases who had been examined at the Gallinger Municipal Hospital for the purpose of committing them to the District Training School.

At the Gallinger Municipal Hospital 2,423 cases were examined and disposed of. Of this number, 1,014 were alcoholics and 61 drug addicts; 169 were found to be not psychotic and 365 were transferred to St. Elizabeths Hospital. A large number of the cases examined included those received from other departments of the District government and who were given a special report to the institute or organization from whence they came concerning their mental condition, and in many cases a detailed physical examination was made and reported on. A detailed report of the psychopathic department of the Gallinger Municipal Hospital will be found in the annual report of that institution, which shows 22 different authorities for admission and 29 sources of distribution.

VETERINARY SURGEON

During the fiscal year referred to there was the usual amount of sickness and injuries generally occurring among the number of animals owned by the District of Columbia, but there was no outbreak of contagious disease. Of the horses and mules, three horses were bitten by a rabid dog and successfully treated. One hundred and fifty hogs were treated for hog cholera, with a loss of 10. Four hundred hogs were treated as a preventive against hog cholera.

All horses and mules reported or found sick were treated either at their stables or at the city refuse hospital stable.

Twenty horses and mules were transferred from one department to another where their services were more suitable or needed.

Eight horses were killed to prevent suffering, as they were of no value and incurable. Twenty-one horses and mules died of natural causes. Twenty-nine horses and mules which were of no further use to the District of Columbia were sold.

There are now on hand in the veterinary department 447 horses and mules. Their general health is good.

THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

No examination was held by the board during the fiscal year stated for applicants for license as veterinary surgeons.

Receipts and disbursements

Balance June 30, 1925	$84.99
Total expenses	60.00
Balance	24.99

CORONER

The coroner states that during the year he made investigations to determine the causes of death as follows: Natural causes, 1,281; accidental, 323; suicides, 70; homicides, 75; a total of 1,784. Autopsies performed, 209; inquests held, 172.

Expenses

Gas and electric light and power for refrigerator	$155.73
Ammonia for refrigerator	18.50
Gasoline and oil for morgue motor truck	52.90
Tires for and repairs to auto truck	211.44
Printing	31.68
Laundry	10.87
Fuel	132.10
Stationery	16.85
Hose, step-ladders, repairs	11.54
Juror's fees	2,340.00
Witness's fees	527.50
Autopsies	1,610.00
Testimony at inquests	650.00
Total	5,769.11

BOARD OF PHARMACY

Eight regular meetings and one special meeting have been held for the conduct of business. Four regular examinations have been conducted, resulting in the licensure of 30 applicants. Nineteen applications for license to practice through reciprocal arrangments with their respective States were received and accepted.

Fifteen permits for the sale of poisons for the use in the arts or as insecticides were renewed, and two original ones issued.

The register shows the following unrevoked licenses to practice pharmacy in the District of Columbia:

Series A	542
Series B	236
Series C	511
Total	1,289

Receipts

Balance in bank at last audit	$748.86
Cash on hand	80.50
Total receipts from fees	1,664.50
Total	2,493.86

Disbursements

Five members of the board, $165 each	825.00
Clerical services	250.00
Postage	20.00
Engrossing certificates	7.00
Janitor's service	12.00
Premium, treasurer's bond	5.00
Dues, national association, boards of pharmacy	25.00
Delegate to convention	100.00
Mimeographing	48.00
Supplies	107.46
Fee refunded	10.00
Engraving certificates	110.00
Total	1,519.46
Balance	974.40

BOARD OF MEDICAL SUPERVISORS

During the year the board of medical supervisors examined 172 applicants for license to practice medicine in the District of Columbia, 110 of whom were passed, 5 failed, 2 rejected, 2 withdrawn, and 52 under consideration.

Sixteen applications were made for licenses under the provisions of the law providing for reciprocity with other jurisdictions, 12 of which were granted and 4 rejected.

Receipts and disbursements

Balance on hand July 1, 1925	$1,908.59
Total receipts during the fiscal year, as shown by cash book	2,695.50
Outstanding check	50.00
Total	4,654.09
Total disbursements during the fiscal year	2,631.04
Balance on hand June 30, 1926	2,023.05

Of the unobligated balance of $2,023.05, shown above, the following distributions for services were made:

Secretary-treasurer	$600.00
Members of the board of medical supervisors	977.50
Members of the board of medical examiners	377.50
Total	1,955.00

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

During the year the board licensed 22 dentists and 20 failed, and licensed 4 hygienists. Five hundred and sixty-eight dentists and 28 oral hygienists were registered as of July 1, 1926.

Receipts

Balance, July 1, 1925	$369.15
Annual registrations of dentists for 1926	552.00
Annual registrations of dental hygienists for 1926	24.00
Registrations for 1925–26, subsequent	90.00
Fees from examinations	937.75
Fees from duplicate licenses	15.00
Postage refund	1.25
Total	1,989.15

Expenditures

Compensation to members of board for regular and special meetings	475.00
Secretary-treasurer, additional compensation	30.00
Clerk's salary	567.00
Inspection services	62.00
Miscellaneous	299.77
Total disbursements	1,433.77
Balance July 1, 1926	555.38

THE NURSES EXAMINING BOARD

This board held 10 meetings during the year and two examinations for the registration of nurses. Two hundred and fourteen nurses

took the examination. Two hundred and six passed and eight failed. Five nurses were registered through reciprocity and four under the waiver.

The highest individual average was 96.97 by a Freedmen's Hospital nurse. The highest school average was 90.10 by Georgetown University Hospital.

Receipts

Balance on hand	$125.96
Fees collected	1,071.00
Interest	7.26
From Graduate Nurses' Association	275.00
Total	1,479.22

Expenditures

Fees refunded	18.00
Stationery and printing	154.00
Engrossing of certificates	49.40
Advertising examinations	12.50
Supplies for examinations	16.50
Back salaries	285.00
Salaries for members for year 1925–26	1,238.00
Mailing certificates, stamps, etc	41.00
Running expenses	100.00
Total	1,914.40
Balance	435.18

BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

The board of accountancy, created by act of February 17, 1923, reports that during the fiscal year it held five formal meetings and considered 18 applicants for certificates as certified public accountants. There have been two certificates issued to June 30, 1926.

The financial report is as follows:

Receipts

Receipts from examination fees	$621.00
Income from other sources	11.25
Checks canceled	108.40
Total	739.65

Disbursements

Deficit from 1925	381.23
Deposits returned	375.00
Current expenses	232.14
Bills payable	159.00
Total	1,147.37
Deficit	407.72

BOARD OF EXAMINERS AND REGISTRARS OF ARCHITECTS

During the year the board registered 75 persons and accepted 55 certificates which entitled a practitioner to sign "architect," but not "registered architect." The board renews its recommendation of last year that membership shall run with the fiscal year.

The financial report is as follows:

Receipts

Balance in bank July 1, 1925	$521.95
From applications, certificates, and renewals	3,059.00
Interest	7.98
Total	3,588.93

Disbursements

Stenographic service	473.50
Printing and stationery	319.14
Compensation to board	348.00
Lettering of certificates	295.75
Rental of office	70.00
Mimeographing	15.50
Messenger service	23.70
Miscellaneous	127.45
Total	1,673.04
Balance	1,915.89

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

This board has held twelve meetings. The records show a full attendance at all but five meetings, at which there was but one absentee.

The board gave the limited examination to one applicant for the second time as he had failed to pass when this examination was given the first time. He passed on this examination.

The board gave the standard examination to eight applicants, five of whom only had to take part of the examination as they had passed in only part of the examination when given before.

Optometrists registered in the District of Columbia up to the filing of this report number as follows:

Having passed the standard examination	14
Having passed the limited examination	83

Receipts

Balance July 1, 1925	$1,186.45
Three applications for examination	75.00
Ninety-one registration fees	455.00
Cash returned to board for notarial service	4.00
	1,720.45

Expenditures

Bonding of secretary and treasurer	10.00
Salary of secretary and treasurer	250.00
Stationery, telephone, etc	32.25
Engrossing certificates	2.00
Registering optometrists in Supreme Court	2.00
Notice of examinations in newspapers	8.82
Compensation of members of board	500.00
Total	805.07
Balance	915.38

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

The object of this service is to find employment for persons out of work, without cost, and in a manner satisfactory to the potential employer and to the employee.

This bureau placed in suitable employment during the fiscal year 1926, 32,684 persons, as contrasted with 28,923, the number so assisted during the fiscal year 1925.

The beneficiaries so helped may be classed as follows:

Clerical and professional placements, 1,834, or 5¾ per cent of total.
Hotel and sales placements, 1,427, or 4¼ per cent of total.
Domestics placements, 13,917, or 42¼ per cent of total.
Skilled and unskilled labor placement, 15,496, or 47¾ per cent of total.

EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Report of the injured employees of the District of Columbia, coming under Employees' Compensation Commission for the year ending June 30, 1926.

Appropriation for year ending June 30, 1926	$10,000.00
Deficiency, Mar. 3, 1926	5,000.00
Refunded by parties responsible for injuries to employees of the District of Columbia	1,135.34
Balance from 1926 appropriation	25.85
Total	16,161.19

Amount expended

Compensation (injured employees for year 1926)	8,114.42
Widows (6)	2,194.20
Dependent child	112.68
Hospitals	2,239.84
Doctors' bills	400.88
Artificial limbs	314.87
Permanently injured employees (4)	2,352.22
Total	15,729.11
Balance in 1926 appropriation	432.08
Outstanding bills, unapproved by commission	197.80

The different departments had the following number of employees injured and compensation paid:

Street cleaning (city refuse), 142	$4,508.85
Surface division, 67	984.23
Water department, 26	523.32
Sewer department, 38	133.63
Repair shop, 17	207.16
Public schools, 30	633.14
Board of Charities, 17	276.55
Electrical department, 3	23.00
Superintendent of buildings, 9	8.40
Trees and parkings, 7	120.94
Corporation counsel, 1	.00
Police court, 2	87.00
Health department, 7	.00
Playgrounds, 1	.00
Weights and measures, 2	608.00
Total, 369	8,114.42

Publications

Number of publication	Number printed	Cost of preparation	Cost of printing	Number distributed by mail, messenger, etc.	Cost of distribution
Annual Report, 1925	500	Unable to estimate	$1,020.00	About 200	$1.25.
Weekly Report	150	105 hours, annually, $1,500; typist $70, 105 hours annually, $1,020; messenger $48; 46 reams paper at $0.5775.	27.20	150 weekly	$2.25 per week.
Monthly Bulletin, Grades of Milk.	1,000	24 days per annum, $1,860; inspector-clerk $124.00.	240.00	750 monthly	$11.25 per month.

ROADWAY PAVEMENTS

The accompanying table shows the area in square yards of new roadway pavements laid and old roadway pavements resurfaced during the year, with the total in square yards and miles of the various kinds of pavements at the close of the fiscal year:

Comparative statement showing character and extent of roadway pavements

	Existing amount on June 30, 1925		New pavements laid during year (square yards)	Pavements replaced during year (square yards)	Existing amount on June 30, 1926	
	Square yards	Miles			Square yards	Miles
Sheet asphalt and coal tar	3,510,358	186.88	33,205	[1] 13,711	3,529,852	188.08
Asphalt blocks	606,156	30.78		[2] 4,124	602,032	30.56
Asphaltic surface (Bessonite)	142,098	10.47	61,892		203,990	13.17
Durax blocks	17,968	.67	13,711		31,679	1.13
Asphaltic or bituminous concrete:						
On concrete base	78,708	4.58			78,708	4.58
On stone base	38,909	2.16			38,909	2.16
Cement concrete	568,374	29.68	259,318	[3] 37,060	790,632	42.09
Granite block and rubble	286,834	15.64	3,102	[2] 12,988 [3] 16,350	260,598	14.77
Vitrified block	17,390	1.04			17,390	1.04
Cobble	36,374	1.52			36,374	1.52
Macadam (estimated)	1,614,306	104.74	[4] 77,600	[3] 8,482 [4] 68,182	1,615,242	108.35
Gravel and unimproved (traveled)		165.80				162.80
Gutters on asphalt streets	248,352		3,024		251,376	
Pavements maintained by street railways	616,807				616,807	
Gutters on asphaltic concrete streets	9,847				9,847	
Total	7,792,481	553.86	451,852	160,897	8,083,436	570.25

[1] Replaced with Durax block.
[2] Replaced with standard asphalt pavement.
[3] Replaced with asphaltic surface.
[4] Replaced with cement concrete.
[5] Placed by superintendent of roads from other streets.

The sums appropriated for expenditures under this head during the year were as follows:

For repairing old roadway pavements, including asphalt resurfacing	$950,000
For paving new roadways	535,450
For repairs to suburban roads	297,500
For grading streets, alleys, and roads	52,700
For paving and repaving roadways under the gasoline-tax road and street fund	1,274,000

The prices paid under contracts for roadway pavements during the year were as follows:

	Square yard
Laying sheet asphalt pavement (2½-inch asphalt surface, 2-inch binder (before compression) with 6-inch concrete base)	$2.57, $2.37, $2.75
Laying vitrified block gutter with 6-inch concrete base	2.75, 2.00, 2.85
Laying 6-inch concrete roadway	1.82, 1.87
Laying small granite block (Durax) roadway pavement on 7-inch concrete base	4.60

The outstanding feature of the year's construction program of this division was the work made possible by the tax on motor-vehicle fuels amounting to over a million and a quarter dollars and including a number of items of roadway widenings of heavily congested traffic thoroughfares. This and other increments added over $800,000 to the total annual expenditures in excess of the preceding year's total. Although the rate of execution of the work authorized to be paid for from the gas tax was necessarily limited by the rate of collection of the tax, all work authorized was under contract and nearing completion at the end of the fiscal year.

Somewhat more liberal appropriations permitted a more adequate program of resurfacing of asphalt pavements and the funds provided for the coming year by Congress reflect a recognition of the need of replacing at an early date the large area of these pavements whose condition, due to extreme age, plainly calls for such action in the interest of public safety and comfort.

The repairing of cuts made in pavements for underground installations reached a total cost of $505,000 during the year, an increase of $70,000 over the preceding year and of $135,000 over that next preceding. This is manifestly a reflection of expansion of various services and of building activity.

SUBURBAN ROADS

The funds for repairs to suburban roads and suburban streets was $297,500, and the appropriation for grading streets, alleys, and roads was $50,000. The upkeep of suburban roads is constantly increasing in cost per unit of area due to a like increase in the number and average axle load of vehicles. The total area of suburban roads maintained was increased during the year by additions of newly opened streets whose area was 40 per cent of the area of pavements laid within the suburban area. The funds for repairs are thus charged with an augmented unit cost and an increased area to be maintained.

MUNICIPAL ASPHALT PLANT

During the year the municipal asphalt plant was operated for a period of 254 days, with a total output of 211,350 cubic feet of asphaltic material, or an average daily output of 832 cubic feet. The details of the cost of the operation of the plant are contained in the report of the engineer of highways.

SIDEWALKS AND ALLEYS

The fund for paving alleys and sidewalks abutting private property amounted to $298,000, and for sidewalks abutting Government

property $15,000. Cement concrete was used exclusively. The contract prices for sidewalks were $2.18 and $2.16 for those adjacent to paved roadways and $2.26 and $2.28 for those adjacent to unpaved roadways.

BRIDGES

The expenditures for construction and repair of bridges amounted to $30,972.07 and the appropriation for the maintenance of the Anacostia and Highway Bridges were expended in full.

The Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge across the Eastern Branch was painted.

A contract was executed and work was started thereunder for the construction of a subway under the tracks of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad on the line of Van Buren Street.

ENGINEER STABLES

This activity rendered service on a reduced scale due to elimination of a part of the stock whose service was replaced by motor trucks.

INSPECTION OF ASPHALTS AND CEMENTS

Through this office tests, chemical and physical, are made of materials used in street and road improvements, likewise of all cement used in construction and repair of District buildings and in sewer construction; fuel oils used in the municipal asphalt plant and water department power plant and miscellaneous tests of like character. Tests made during the year were: Asphalt materials, 1,789; oils, 27; tars, 11; sand, 189; gravel, 110; stone, 84; limestone dust, 63; cements, 19,501, representing 199,817 barrels; and miscellaneous materials, 20; a total of 22,257.

Samples of asphalt tested represented 4,035 tons; 3,275 tons used by four different contracting firms laying asphalt pavements and 760 tons used by the municipal asphalt plant.

Of the material tested there were rejected 3,290 cubic yards of asphalt sand and 1,264 of Portland cement.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE

The total of fees paid for work done by this office for private parties amounted to $44,179.30. Considering the work performed for the Federal and District Governments, and the work done in connection with condemnation cases for the opening of streets, alleys, etc., this makes the office more than self-sustaining.

HIGHWAY PLAN

Many surveys were made during the year and monuments placed to mark street corners in accordance with the plan of the permanent system of highways. Changes were also made in the highway plan under a special appropriation of $1,500. Much activity has been noted in this work, due to the creation of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

CONDEMNATION CASES

This office is charged with the performance of much preliminary work in connection with condemnation cases, such as expert engineering field work, accurate computations, and the preparation of descriptions and final plats to be filed in court. During the past year 68 cases were pending in the courts. Condemnation for the acquisition of streets in Barry farm was concluded and recorded. This was the largest condemnation case ever undertaken by the District.

PARKS

During the past year condemnation proceedings were instituted for the acquisition of small park areas under an appropriation of $5,000, made available for this purpose. This appropriation should be increased. Property values in the District are on the rise and more money should be appropriated in order that a greater number of small park areas at street intersections, so desirable in the development of the city, may be acquired.

STREET EXTENSIONS

Fifty street-extension cases were recorded during the year. This includes condemnation cases and dedications for the extension and widening of streets.

During the past year a bill was enacted which amends the act relative to the opening and extension of streets in accordance with the highway plan. Hereafter, when it is found that the benefits will not equal the damages, the excess of damages over benefits may be paid out of District revenues. This law will enable the commissioners to extend many important streets as laid down on the highway plan, which would otherwise fail under the old law. The new law is believed to be important and beneficial legislation, as the benefits derived from the opening and widening of streets accrue to the general community and are not restricted to the immediate area involved.

CLOSING OLD ROADS

The act of January 30, 1925, authorizing the closing of streets, roads, and highways rendered useless and unnecessary by reason of the opening of streets in accordance with the highway plan has been used advantageously in the development of tracts of land unnecessarily cut up or divided by old highways. It has, in many instances, permitted an orderly and comprehensive subdivision and development of property on a more economical basis in accordance with the highway plan. Seven cases have been recorded where streets have been closed under the authority of this law.

TREES AND PARKING

The number of trees planted along the curbs on the streets in the District of Columbia at the close of the fiscal year was 104,696, a net

decrease of 173 trees. During the fiscal year 1,754 young trees were planted in their permanent positions.

At present our nurseries have not been able to produce a sufficient number of trees of the proper size to keep pace with the growth of the city and its street improvements. Last fall it was necessary to purchase 300 red oak trees from a private nursery for street planting.

For various reasons 2,197 trees were removed during the year from public space.

The cost of removing 1,705 trees was paid from the appropriation for the trees and parking division at a total cost of $9,010.03. The cost of other trees removed was paid from the appropriations of other departments and whole cost deposits.

Twenty-one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five trees were sprayed during the year for the extermination of leaf-eating insects.

Five hundred and thirteen red oak trees were transplanted at the Fort Dupont nursery, and 400 white oak, 240 willow oak, 392 gingko, 982 Norway maple, 129 silver maple, 369 sycamore, and 455 gum trees at the Poplar Point nursery.

During the year 9,722 trees were trimmed, at a total cost of $9,123.25.

A sum of $204.64 was expended in tree surgery necessitated by cavities in 6 elm, 2 sycamore, 2 Norway maple, 4 sugar maple, and 2 linden trees at the curb line.

The removal of weeds from uninclosed public parkings along the streets was undertaken, at a cost of $2,208.46, while $135.98 was expended for the care of small reservations throughout the city.

The cultivation of 10,885 young trees involved the expenditure of $1,990.24.

The height of 533 retaining walls was passed on, and 1,465 permits were issued affecting the grade of the parking in connection with building operations.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF CITY REFUSE

For dust prevention and cleaning of streets and alleys there was appropriated $430,000, but because of the necessity of extraordinary work in the removal of snow during the past winter an additional sum of $25,000 was appropriated.

The amount of garbage collected was slightly less than during the year previous, about 69,000 tons, as compared with about 73,000 tons in the year 1925.

The garbage-reduction plant produced 3,538,125 pounds of grease, which sold for $252,055.43. As the expense of operating this plant, including the cost of freight from Washington to Cherry Hill, Va., was $185,281.16, there was a substantial profit amounting to $66,774.27 to the Government from this source.

The trash plant, while not a source of profit at the prices prevailing for salvaged material during the past year, was successfully operated as a disposal plant. One hundred and eighty-three thousand four hundred and two cubic yards were run through this plant, and 43 per cent of this material salvaged, bringing a revenue to the District of $79,429.88.

Total receipts this year by this division from all sources were as follows:

Garbage grease	$252,055.43
Salvaged trash	79,429.88
Hides	2,137.00
Manure	2,110.79
	335,733.10

Because of the early commencement of cold weather last winter the ashes collected from private householders increased some 13,000 cubic yards, or slightly more than 8 per cent, over the previous year. The cost of this collection and disposal was $137,893.99.

In connection with these several services it is interesting to note that upon survey it is found that garbage is collected from 83,515 different places, and ashes and trash from 78,407 private householders.

The number of dead animals collected by this division was 43,624, about the same as in the previous year.

BUILDING OPERATIONS

The estimated value of building operations during the year was $63,599,260, an increase over 1925 of $736,300, a really extraordinary showing in view of the fact that the postwar feverish activity in building construction has long since subsided. The only logical inference is, therefore, that Washington has risen, in this respect, to the commanding position occupied by only the first five or six cities, in point of population in the country.

The number of permits was 11,574 as against 11,993 last year, an insignificant decrease of 419. Business buildings numbered 758, whereas there were 1,070 in 1925. The number of apartments, however, was 173 as against 120, while the number of dwellings increased from 4,129 to 4,135. The total number of new buildings was 5,066 in 1926 and 5,319 in 1925, a difference of 253.

There were 2,602 certificates of occupancy issued, a recession from 1925 of 407. Of these certificates of permits, 2,355 were for conforming uses and 247 for nonconforming uses.

The amount collected in fees from the operation of the building inspection division was $85,520. After deducting from this sum all of the expenses of the division, salaries, contingent or operating costs, etc., there remains a balance of $2,932.25, demonstrating that the department was more than self-supporting.

PLUMBING AND PLUMBING INSPECTION

The plumbing inspection division made 58,271 inspections during the year. About half of these were inspections of plumbing work in new buildings and about one-half were inspections on account of complaints of insanitary plumbing, leaky roofs, and defective rainleaders, which originated in other divisions of the District government.

During the year 12 warrants were obtained against unlicensed plumbers and others for violation of the plumbing regulations. These prosecutions netted a total in police court fines of $70. No

case taken to court by the plumbing division was decided adversely.

The plumbing board held 24 meetings and examined 63 applicants, of whom 15 passed and were granted master plumber license. At the close of the year there were 262 registered plumbers and 6 registered gas fitters.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STATIONS

There were in operation throughout the year four convenience stations, open daily from 6 a. m. to midnight, and during the year the attendants reported a total patronage for all stations of over sixteen and one-half million. The cash receipts from use of pay compartments, etc., totaled $6,690.58, this being about one-quarter of the actual cost of the operation of the stations.

INSPECTION OF STEAM BOILERS

Four hundred and eighty-four steam boilers were inspected by the inspector of steam boilers, including 35 boilers belonging to the District of Columbia. Five boilers were condemned as unfit for further use. The compensation of the inspector of steam boilers is paid from fees collected from the owners. The total amount of the fees reported by that official was $2,245 and the expenses of inspection $380, leaving a net compensation of $1,865 for the inspector.

EXAMINATION OF STEAM ENGINEERS

The board of examiners of steam engineers held 52 meetings and examined 416 applicants, of whom 185 were found competent and 231 incompetent.

CONSTRUCTION OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

During the year 17 buildings were under construction, as follows: Armstrong Technical High School, connecting the new addition to the old building and necessary reconstruction of the old building, which was completed November 17, 1925; Western High School, remodeling, which was completed January 25, 1926; garage for police station No. 12, which was completed February 16, 1926; storehouse for the electrical department, District of Columbia, which was completed February 10, 1926; Macfarland Junior High School, auditorium addition, which was completed April 10, 1926; James F. Oyster School, 8-room extensible building, which was completed June 18, 1926; police precinct station No. 13, which was completed August 14, 1926; Francis Junior High School, which will be completed January 1, 1927; Randall Junior High School, 8-room addition to the Cardozo School, including gymnasium and assembly hall, which will be completed January 1, 1927; Stuart Junior High School, which will be completed February 1, 1927; Macfarland Junior High School, wing addition, which will be completed February 1, 1927; Brightwood School, 16-room building, including gymnasium and assembly hall, which was completed August 17, 1926; Bell School, 8-room addition, which was completed August 3, 1926; John Greenleaf Whittier School, 8-room extensible building, which will be com-

pleted October 1, 1926; Job Barnard School, 8-room building, which will be completed October 1, 1926; George Truesdell School, 8-room addition, which will be completed October 1, 1926; Industrial Home School for Colored Children, cottage for boys, which was completed August 25, 1926.

Besides the preparation of plans and specifications for the above-mentioned buildings, plans and specifications for 50 other pieces of work, such as heating systems for engine houses, police stations, and school buildings, and equipment for various buildings were prepared in this office, amounting to $176,208. The contracts entered into by this office for the fiscal year amounted to a total of $4,737,876.37.

REPAIRS TO MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

All municipal buildings are kept in repair under the direction of the municipal architect.

The appropriations for repair work and the expenditures of same were as follows:

For the repairs to school buildings, $450,000 was appropriated, and all was expended.

For the repairs to engine houses, $25,000 was appropriated, all of which was expended except $13.25.

For repairs to police stations, $7,000 was appropriated, all of which was expended.

For repairs to police court, 1925–26, $3,000 was appropriated, all of which was expended; 1926, $8,000 was appropriated, all of which was expended except $66.25.

In addition to the above, repairs were made on various buildings under the supervision of the superintendent of repairs to the amount of $67,857.13 out of the appropriations controlled by other departments.

Steam boilers in over 100 District buildings were inspected and repaired.

Modern lighting systems were installed in schools extensively.

WORKHOUSE AND REFORMATORY

Good progress was made during the year in the construction work at the District Workhouse and Reformatory. The principal work done at the wrokhouse consisted of work on 3 dormitories, 1 of which was completed and occupied, the construction of 2 brick cottages, and the starting of the new brick plant. At the reformatory, at the end of the fiscal year, there were completed 4 shop buildings, 1 boiler house, 1 sell house, 1 disciplinary dormitory, 1 dormitory: other work near completion are 1 shop building (except floor, etc.), 3 dormitories (except for interior finishing), 2 dormitories (brickwork average 90 per cent complete), 2 dormitories (foundations in place), 1 washhouse (except interior work), 1 mess hall (brickwork practically complete, main roof complete except slating), 1 guard's cottage average 90 per cent complete.

HARBOR FRONT

The actual frontage of the District of Columbia devoted to commerce, with the exception of canals, is about 2 miles. The total

available water front is 18 miles, of which about 8 miles is set aside for parks and other purposes of the United States. The greater part of the wharf property under the control of the commissioners is situated along the Washington Channel.

The harbor police station and dock, the dock of the fire boat, the District morgue, the municipal fish wharves and market, and the District workhouse and sand wharves are located on the Washington Channel between N and Thirteenth Streets. The balance of the frontage is leased by steamboat companies, boathouses, lumber dealers, etc.

The total revenue from wharf rentals, including the fish market, amounted to $36,718.71.

Attention is called to the availability of the water front on the Washington Channel between the fish market and Fourteenth Street as a site for a new farmers' produce market. The establishment of a farmers' produce market on the water front should tend to encourage a resumption of water traffic in vegetables and fruits and other commodities from the rich tidewater counties of Maryland and Virginia. It would appear that a farmers' produce market adjoining the fish market would be a logical extension of market facilities.

Several failures of water-front structures have occurred during the year, due solely to the fact that these structures are very old. Other failures may be expected from time to time and it is hoped that the permanent development of the water front may be initiated at a very early date.

MUNICIPAL GARAGE

Forty-four automobiles were maintained and kept in running condition during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926. The garage was kept open day and night for urgent and necessary transportation. All machines were washed and supplied with gasoline and oil by the night force, who also acted as watchmen. A mechanical and laboring force made all necessary repairs and operated automobiles for departments having no vehicles or drivers. An automobile repair and paint shop is operated at Second and Bryant Streets.

The operating cost for the maintenance of these automobiles, including gasoline, oil, tires, labor, and miscellaneous supplies amounted to $19,604.77, or an average of $445.56 for each car—$0.0525 per mile. The cost of repair parts amounted to $2,979.40, or an average of $67.71 for each car—$0.0122 per mile.

The total mileage amounted to 283,184 miles, or an average of 6,436 miles per car. This is an average increase of 1,083 miles per car and a decrease in the cost per mile per car of $0.0173.

STREET LIGHTING

There are 23,387 public lamps of all kinds in the avenues, streets, alleys, etc., under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. Of these, 12,065 are gas and 11,322 electric; of the gas lamps, 10,811 are single-burner mantle, 909 are double-burner mantle, and 345 are small flat flame, for designation purposes; of the electric, 892 are magnetite arc, 10,154 are incandescent, ranging

from 60 to 1,000 candlepower each (85 per cent of 60 and 100), and 276 are incandescent, of about 10 candlepower, for "designation."

There was a net increase during the year of 820 lamps.

The increase in aggregate candlepower of the street-lighting system under the jurisdiction of the commissioners is from approximately 2,183,400 to approximately 2,844,600, about 30 per cent.

Of 6.6-ampere arc lamps, 147 were added; and of 4-ampere arcs, 77 were discontinued. Arc lamps on M Street NW., west of Rock Creek, were changed from 4-ampere to 6.6-ampere, in connection with street widening and repaving, preliminary to installation of new design lamp posts. Arc lamps of 6.6-ampere on District owned ornamental posts and with new design inclosing glassware, which has been given the trade name "Washington type," replaced a lesser number of 4-ampere arcs on company owned nonornamental poles on H Street, from Third Street NW. to Fifteenth Street NE. (not including the railroad viaduct), effecting an excellent lighting on up-to-date lines of that commercially zoned, busy thoroughfare.

An initial installation of 1,000-candlepower incandescent lamps, 231 in number, and an increase in the 600-candlepower lamps, from 76 to 514, all on the new types of ornamental posts and equipment, was made in Sixteenth Street NW., throughout its present length, and in Massachusetts Avenue NW., from Wisconsin Avenue to Seventh Street, including Scott, Thomas, and Dupont Circles and Mount Vernon Square, the initial installation of synchronized traffic signals being on these two traffic arteries, mounted on the street lamp posts. Specially planned location of lamp posts at controlled intersections served to avoid additional posts and posts of diverse kind for the traffic signals. The posts at the circles and at the south side of the square each bear two lamps at 20 feet mounting height; the general run of lamps are at 15 feet, and lamps at 18 feet blend between the others. This installation, together with that on H Street, constitutes a rather comprehensive sample of the better grades of the improved project lighting on high grade important traffic arteries. A sample of another grade on a residential street of moderate traffic importance is the installation of 250 candlepower lamps on new type 15-foot posts on California Street NW. from Connecticut Avenue to Massachusetts Avenue.

Of another sort, adapted to the situation, of the improved project as to adequacy of lighting but not on ornamental posts, is the installation of 250-candlepower lamps, on new design pendant unit with inclosing glass, mounted in novel manner on center trolley poles, two to a pole and on alternate poles except as proximity to street intersection, etc., indicates adjacent pole treatment; this on Wisconsin Avenue NW., from Massachusetts Avenue to River Road. Some further installations of these general types are in progress. The number of 100-candlepower lamps was reduced by 549. The number of 60-candlepower lamps was increased by but 228. Of the gas lamps, the number of single burner was reduced by 81 and the number of double burner increased by 323.

The situation with respect to the several suits at law against certain railway companies for recovery of sums expended in maintaining lights adjacent to their respective rights of way remains essentially as stated in 1920 and succeeding reports, with accretion of sums claimed.

SIGNAL SYSTEMS—FIRE ALARM, TELEGRAPH, POLICE PATROL SIGNAL, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE

There were 877 fire-alarm boxes in service at the end of the year, 748 on underground and 129 on overhead wires, a net increase of 33 over the preceding year; 3,944 box and local fire alarms (exclusive of "additional" alarms) were received and transmitted during the year, of which 297 were false alarms.

There were 509 police patrol boxes in service at the end of the year, 411 on underground and 98 on overhead wires, an increase of 8 compared with the preceding year; 3 boxes were changed from overhead to underground connection.

There were 1,728 telephones connected to the District system at the end of the year, and 29 in use as portable sets by fire and electrical departments, an increase of 64 in the year.

There were 2,692 cells of storage battery in service on fire alarms, police patrol, and local circuits at the end of the year.

There were in service in the composite signals system (fire alarm, police patrol, and telephone) on June 30, 1926, a grand total of 7,945 miles of conductor, of which 7,798 miles were underground and 147 miles overhead. Reserve capacity of cable is below requirement of demand and below safe emergency provision. Provision for expansion is again presented as an urgent requirement.

The number of permits issued for installation of electrical wires and apparatus was 15,267; fees paid to collector of taxes, $23,912; number of inspections recorded, 28,212.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE-DISPOSAL SYSTEM

The construction and maintenance of the sewerage system and the sewage-disposal system of the District of Columbia is placed under a division in charge of the sanitary engineer.

The length of main and pipe sewers constructed during the year was 30.79 miles. The total length of main and pipe sewers on June 30, 1926, was 842.58, of which 160.24 miles are main sewers and 682.57 miles are pipe sewers. In addition to the above new sewer work, 242 stormwater catch basins were constructed, bringing the total to 6,489.

There was expended during the year on new extensions of the sewerage system the sum of $889,807.18 and on the sewage-disposal system $98,319.71. The total cost of the sewerage system to June 30, 1926, was $18,092,893.47 and of the sewage-disposal system to the same date was $6,151,851.67, making a total of $24,244,745.14.

The main sewerage pumping station and the three substations were in continuous operation throughout the year, handling the sewage of practically the entire District. In addition the main station handled the stormwater from the 900-acre level area flanking Pennsylvania Avenue from Peace Monument to Fifteenth Street. At the main station the combined pumpage of sewage and storm water amounted to 30,874,530,000 gallons during the year. The Poplar Point substation pumped 633,872,267 gallons, the Rock Creek substation 470,262,000 gallons, and Woodridge substation 15,401,411 gallons. Eliminating Rock Creek and Woodridge substations, which deliver their discharge to the main station, the above indicates a

mean daily pumpage of 86,324,389 gallons. The coal consumption at the main station for the year was 4,641 tons, of which about 13 per cent should be charged off to cover bunker losses and miscellaneous uses.

The Bureau of Mines, by request of the commissioners, made an exhaustive study of the steam generating equipment of the main station during the year and plans are being made to improve it along the lines of the bureau's recommendations.

The pollution of the Potomac River by discharge of raw sewage was worse during this year than it has ever been. A very substantial increase in the sewage pumped combined with extended periods of very low flow in the river during late summer and fall months caused the dilution figure to fall dangerously low. Action should be taken in the very near future toward providing for some preliminary treatment of sewage before it is emptied into the river.

During the year new sewers were constructed to provide service for 1,608 houses, an average of 88 feet per house served. This is some 20 feet more than the previous year, due to the longer stretches necessary to cover the more suburban developments.

WATER MAINS

During the year 123,490 linear feet, or 23.39 miles of water main of various sizes, were laid, at an aggregate cost of $516,839.38, making a total length of main now in service of 755.6 miles.

WATER CONSUMPTION

The mean daily water consumption was 69,317,738 gallons, giving an approximate mean daily per capita consumption of 138 gallons.

Total pumpage for the year was 14,302,698,765 gallons.

Total coal burned was 9,782 tons.

The cost of operating pumps for the year was $122,204.97, as against $119,149.87 in 1925, thus making the total operative cost of pumping 1,000,000 gallons of water into the mains $8.50, which is $0.55 per million gallons less than last year.

The financial statement of the water department revenues and expenditures will be found in the report of the auditor of the District of Columbia.

WATER METERS

During the year 2,548 new meters were installed, and 75,890, or 86.1 per cent of the total, water services are now metered.

Very respectfully,

CUNO H. RUDOLPH,
J. F. BELL,
PROCTOR L. DOUGHERTY,
Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

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